

Agriculture-1927

Condition of

MONTGOMERY, ALA.

Tallahassee, Fla. Home

Alabama.

JAN 29 1927

COMING BACK

## 3,000 Negroes Sign Pledge To Reduce Acreage

Three thousand negro farmers from all parts of the south, attending the 36th annual farmers' conference at Tuskegee, Ala., Institute, January 19, pledged themselves to a reduction of cotton acreage, increased production of food and feed crops and to lower costs through better business methods in 1927, according to a story in a recent issue of the Atlanta Tri-Weekly Journal.

Present farm methods in the south were described as unscientific and unsafe by Dr. Spright Dowell, president of the Alabama Polytechnic Institute, who was the principal speaker. He advocated "more education and better home life" as remedies.

TUSKEGEE, ALA. Times Gazette

JUL 24 1927

## Farmer Progress By Negroes

SOUTHERN farmers have made note in recent years of the progress being scored by the negroes on the farm. This progress is indicated largely in the circumstance that instead of being content with occupation as croppers, they are turning to land ownership. It is home-ownership in the towns that has revolutionized the condition of the negro in the town, and farm-owning is doing the same for him in the country. Mere knowledge of possession of farm or home makes a better citizen of the negro. The system of agricultural extension work among the negroes is largely responsible for their recent advancement on the farm. The agricultural department at Washington is advertent to this fact in the course of a report it has just made covering the different phases of that work for the past ten years. The encouraging word is sent out that Southern negro farmers "are learning better methods of farming and home making." They are becoming land-owners as a result of their renewed interest. The report maintains that home-ownership is the largest factor in the solution of the so-called negro problem.—Charlotte, N. C. Observer.

Arthur Rapier, field secretary of the commission on interracial relations, has made some exhaustive investigations into the migratory movement of the negroes of the South and finds that while there has been a widespread shifting of the negro population, the exodus toward the industrial cities of the North is not as formidable as it has been pictured. Mr. Rapier finds that great numbers of Southern negroes have simply moved from the rural sections into the towns and cities of the South. A check of the census figures on population of Southern cities reveals that the negro population has grown rapidly in the last five years. The same economic con-

ditions that have driven white tillers of the soil away from the farms have operated among the negroes.

Mr. Rapier's figures, however, reflect a steady migration away from the farms in all of the Southern states. Alabama being among those that have felt the trend less seriously than some others.

During the last five years South Carolina has lost 18,429 negro farmers, the loss amounting to 16 per cent of that class for the period. Georgia lost 46,110 colored farmers, or 35.4 per cent; Mississippi, 11,077, or 6.9 per cent; Alabama 9,882, or 10.4 per cent; Arkansas, 8,999, or 12.4 per cent; Tennessee, 3,535, or 9.2 per cent; Louisiana, 942, or 7.2 per cent.

During the five-year period in question the entire South lost 91,459 negro farmers, or practically 10 per cent of the total. Among these were 24,152 owners and managers, or 11 per cent of that group.

To which the Selma Times-Journal says:

The departure of the negroes does not necessarily mean that Southern agriculture will sustain any serious setback. On the contrary, it may mean ultimately a sounder condition, through the breaking up of the large plantations and the introduction of the small farm owner, and the more intensive working of the soil, resulting in a more profitable system of farming.

Prattville, Ala. Progress

DEC 15 1927

DEC 15 1927

About fifty per cent of the farm negroes of Autauga county are now loafing and trying to borrow all the money possible for Christmas. They are ready to sell themselves to any farmer who will let them have a good sum of Christmas money. They never think about how they are to pay it back and nine times out of ten such Christmas money is never paid back. That is the trouble with the river beat farmers. No section can prosper under such conditions. There is much moving among farm negroes now because the land owners have refused them Christmas money and some other farmers have bought them. This is the only section on earth that has such loose business methods.

# Condition of. Poor of All Colors United by a Common Misery in California

By JOHN H. OWENS.

(Special to the Daily Worker.)

RIPLEY, Calif., March 15.—There is widespread unemployment among the agricultural workers and migratory laborers in the California cotton belt, the Imperial, Colorado and San Joaquin valleys.

The slump in cotton and agricultural prices forced many tenants and share-croppers into bankruptcy, thus hurling them into the ranks of the unemployed. In the Palo Verde Valley, a day's auto ride from Los Angeles, the Negro has located, bought land or homesteaded and is developing a New Dixie West of the Rockies.

Many small proprietors have been forced to relinquish their holdings for the accumulated taxes and excessively high water rates.

The local banks and chambers of commerce are taking advantage of the situation and organizing the ranchers for the purpose of lowering the already pitiful wages. Were it not for the fact that rural grocers are extending credit to many, actual starvation would face a great number.

The highways are crowded with the landless and the dispossessed; they travel in Fords, on horseback, in wagons, burro packs and many are walking, carrying their bedrolls on their backs—men, women and children.—Mexicans, whites and Negroes.

There is equality and fraternity in misery. They are milling about with no definite objective in view. The California land barons have the workers just where they want them.

## King Cotton Creating a New Dixie West of the Rockies

NEGRO FARMERS SURPLANTING MEXICANS AND JAPANESE IN COTTON DISTRICTS OF CALIFORNIA AND ARIZONA.

LOS ANGELES, Calif. (PCNB)

—But few who read of the great Pacific Southwest know or realize that from six to ten million acres in California alone are suitable for growing cotton. And that in the great interior valleys in which the climate is suitable for cotton, lies the world's greatest area of rich, level irrigated land.

California, the most varied of all states in the Union, climatically speaking, has 128,000 acres in cotton plantings this year, a decrease of 34,000 acres harvested in 1926. These entire plantings are in the Sacramento Valley, the San Joaquin Valley, the Imperial Valley and the Palo Verde Valley.

Across the Colorado River from the Palo Verde Valley lies Arizona with 140,000 acres in cotton, 46,000 acres of which is planted in Pima Egyptian long staple cotton.

Perpetual sunshine, lack of boll weevil, elimination of the dreaded wet June and the South and water when you wish it, are the magnets which are drawing the Negro cotton farmer from the South.

In the Palo Verde Valley, a day's auto ride from Los Angeles the Negro has located, bought land or homesteaded and is developing a New Dixie West of the Rockies.

In a vivid description of what the Negro is accomplishing in this district as well as in the homesteading area across the Colorado River in Arizona, John Owens, writing in the "American Life Magazine" says:

"California and orange blossoms are familiar associations, but the fact that the cotton blossom is actually to supersede the orange blossom in social and economic importance is news to many. California already produces more cotton than Missouri, and each year the cotton acreage is being expanded.

So important has cotton production become in the economic life of the state that several spinning mills are already located about Oakland, and the various commercial associations of the state are seriously considering making cotton-milling a major industry.

"Whenever we find cotton we may look for the Negro."

Cotton is raised in quantity in three parts of the state. This article will deal with the Palo Verde Valley since cotton and alfalfa are practically the only crops produced there, and conditions there are typical of all the state cotton belts.

"Agriculture is carried on here through irrigation methods as the rain-fall amounts to practically a negligible quantity. All the land farmed is reclaimed desert land, the source of water-supply being the Colorado River. The region has enjoyed considerable publicity recently due to the discussion and filibuster in the last Congress over the Boulder Canyon Dam Bill. This bill provided for control and storage of the Colorado, the development of hydro-electric plants, and the further extension of irrigation projects, converting desert areas into tillable localities.

The climate is very mild the year round, there being practically no winter. During the summer it is extremely warm, the usual range being from 110 to 117 degrees Fahrenheit; from September to March cooler weather is encountered. The days are mild but the nights are cool reaching a freezing temperature during January and February. At no time during the year does the weather reach a freezing temperature during the day.

"Many of the farmers raise two crops each year, a winter wheat or some other hardy grain such as barley is raised during the winter season and is harvested about March. This leaves ample time to plant cotton. Due to the usual late appearance of frost cotton planted the first week of June will have time to mature, although an early frost sometimes curtails the production of a second crop of late cotton."



Agriculture - 1927  
Condition of  
Barnesville, Ga., News-Gazette

AUG 25 1927

## LEE, FORMER COLORED FARM DEMONSTRATOR, WRITES FROM VIRGINIA

Through the generosity of the Rosenwald Fund, the writer has been permitted to attend the second session of the Hampton Summer school. We motored up from Barnesville, touching Atlanta and Augusta, Ga., Columbia, Chester, and Rock Hill, S. C.; Charlotte, Salisbury, and Greensboro, N. C.; Danville, Petersburg, and Richmond, Va. This route was possibly 200 miles out of the way. When we leave here September 1 we shall take in Norfolk, Portsmouth, and Suffolk, Va.; Rocky Mount, Raleigh, and Fayetteville, N. C.; Florence, Sumter, Columbia, and Orangeburg, S. C., continuing to Savannah, Ga., beginning my work from that point in September.

Besides touching these several cities in about fifty counties in the four states mentioned, we have made several trips out from Hampton to near-by communities and farms. And why all this travel? Fortuned under in the fall to build up one and only one object, and that is to compare the types of farming done by these people with that done in middle Georgia. Naturally someone of the big farms near Hampton interesting farming has been seen. From Atlanta to about the center of land on which a good crop of soy North Carolina corn and cotton beans were grown last year. The were the main crops with comparatively small plantings of small grain and forage crops. From upper North Carolina to Richmond cotton gave way to tobacco and grain. Corn crops all the way up were from good soils. Excellent except on some very poor soils.

But the thing I was keenest to see was not so much the staple crops of corn, cotton, grain, tobacco, etc. Rather it was to observe the kind of soil building crops used. And

when it comes to that, Virginia is far ahead of any of the other states mentioned.

From Richmond to Hampton, it was on the 7th of August when nearly one hundred miles, the farms we were out at this farm. None of the 50 acres has been touched since the fourth and fifth generations, and the wheat was cut. The land is being yet these same lands are growing allowed to grow up in weeds to be crops that look like bottom lands, turned under this fall. At the time Here lots of small grain, alfalfa, of our visit the weeds averaged and soy beans are grown. The alfalfa fields are about the size of our knee-high behind the beans, and where there were no beans you could see the wheat stubble down the rows for quite 200 yards.

This trip, more than anything else in my life has convinced me that Georgia lands are suffering for just this kind of treatment, and this article is being written with the hope that at least one farmer in each of the counties served by your paper will plow under from one to five acres of his present crop of peas or beans to be followed by grain this fall. And next year, let us hope that many of them will plant from five to twenty acres of peas or beans to be turned under and followed by small grain. Poor land means poor farmers the world over. Rich land means prosperous farmers, and prosperous farmers are the backbone of a prosperous section of the country. Let us not be too hard-headed to try new ideas sometimes

S. H. Lee,

Newton, Ga.

GA. NEWS  
4 1927

## One Third of Negro Farmers Lost in Ga. In Past Five Years

ATLANTA, Ga.—In the five years ending with 1925 Georgia lost more than one-third of its negro farmers, according to a study of Federal Census reports just made by Arthur F. Roper, Secretary of the Georgia Committee on Race Relations. From a total in 1920 of 130,187 colored farmers including owners, managers, and tenants, the number declined in five years to 84,077, a net loss of 46,110, or 35.4 per cent. The number of negro tenants declined from 113,938 to 72,-

206, or 36.7 per cent; the number of owners and managers fell from 16,249 to 11,871, or 26.9 per cent. Assuming that most of these farmers were heads of families, it is estimated that this meant a total population loss of two hundred thousand or more.

During the same period there was also a falling off in the number of white farmers, but the losses were not nearly so heavy, being 6.8 per cent for tenants, 10.7 per cent for owners and managers and 8.6 per cent in the aggregate. In 1920 there were in the State 180,545 white farmers and 130,187 negro farmers, against 165,018 and 84,077 respectively in 1925, showing a rapid decline in the proportion of negro farmers to the total rural population. The so-called "black belt," it is said, is rapidly breaking up, as negroes leave the farms for southern cities and northern industrial centers. A study of certain typical Georgia counties is now being made, in the effort to determine both the nature and the causes of this migration.

During the five-year period in question the entire South lost 91,459 negro farmers, or practically ten per cent of the total. Among these were 24,151 owners and managers, or eleven per cent of that group, South Carolina lost 18,429 colored farmers or 16.8 per cent, Mississippi 11,077 or 6.9 per cent, Alabama 9,882 or 10.4 per cent, Arkansas 8,999 or 12.4 per cent, Tennessee 3,535 or 9.2 per cent, Louisiana 2,546 or 4 per cent, Kentucky 1,911 or 13.1 per cent, and Florida 942 or 7.2 per cent. On the other hand, Oklahoma with 20,048 colored farmers in 1925, showed a gain of 7 per cent, Texas with 81,726 a gain of 3.8 per cent, Maryland with 6,721 a gain of 8.2 per cent, Virginia with 50,147 a gain of 5 per cent, and North Carolina with 80,966 a gain of 6.1 per cent.

## The Plight of the Negro Farmer in the South

By BENJ. F. HUBERT

President Georgia State Industrial College

"It ain't hardly much use of a man trying to farm and have anything these days. Our children won't stay here and don't seem to want to farm." I was talking to W. H. Myers, a fine-looking, upstanding negro farmer of Barnwell county, S. C. He is owner of 170 acres of fine farm land, located on the public road. There is a good home on the place. A windmill sends running water through the house. Myers has farmed for 47 years. He has owned this farm for over thirty years. He has reared a fine family, but most of the children have grown up and are living in cities engaged in other kinds of work.

Across the road is another colored farmer, proud owner of 270 acres of land. Both of his boys long ago grew tired of farm life, and the two old people "carry on" as best they can, with little hope of ever passing on this splendid farm to children who will cherish and farm it as a monument to their parents.

These pictures are true not alone of two farmers in one community, but of thousands throughout the Southern States. In 1920 negroes owned 22,000 farms in South Carolina, and 16,000 in Georgia—23,000 in the whole South. What are the figures today after the vast cityward drift of the years between? Far less than they were, without doubt. What will they be twenty years hence? The Southern negro has been called "the world's finest peasantry." What of his future? Is he destined to be swallowed up by the cities, as now seems to threaten; or will it be possible for him to retain his hold upon the soil and continue a valuable factor in production?

Nobody can say with certainty; we can only hope and fear. But if the economic and rural history of other peoples means anything to us, we may draw some conclusions which can hardly be questioned.

\* \* \*

If the negroes are to remain on the farms of the South and help build here in the Southland a great people and a greater South, there must be:

1. A re-direction of education. Our schools must somehow learn to exalt the ordinary things of life. They must be so arranged that children will understand and appreciate values. The child must grow up appreciating the great outdoors. The school must be able to show the value of this, as opposed to the veneer of city life.

2. Fathers and mothers must early begin teaching their boys the love of independence, open air living, hunting, fishing, and the love of honest country folk—the like of whom cannot be found anywhere else in the world. These primary desires once made a part of children will be hard to change.

3. Children must be allowed to share in the management and ownership of the farm. They must feel that the farm is a cooperative business, with father and mother as senior partners. A bank account of their own, chickens, hogs, cows that belong to them, will serve to deepen their interest in the farm.

4. Farms must be made to pay. Our state and federal governments should not stop until every possible means has been devised, in so far as legislation can make this possible to give the farmer a fair chance in the economic race with other workers. Farming is a primary occupation. It is basic to this country's welfare; therefore it is the statesmanlike thing for a country to provide for its future growth and permanency.

5. There should be greater diversification, resulting in less danger from complete failures and providing more cash crops.

6. More social conveniences must be carried to the rural districts. Boys and girls will not be content to remain where there is not a modern school, a good church, lights, good roads, and a community social life that affords some of the things enjoyed by people in the city.

7. The negro farmer must be assured of protection. The local and state authorities must not only make it safe for the old farmer and his wife. They must see to it that the children get a chance to life. Lawlessness must go. Every man wants to feel secure when he turns homeward after a long day's toil. If this security cannot be had, then there will be a strong urge to go to some place where he can feel secure, happy and content.

\* \* \*

The leaders in every rural community ought to see to it that at least one boy and one girl, of the many leaving for high school and college every year, go away fired with the ambition to know more about agriculture and home life. A larger number should be directed to the State colleges, where people are charged with the responsibility of leadership in problems that affect the life of the people in the rural districts of the State.

The most encouraging sign of promise and hope today is the small but growing number of negro boys in college who are beginning to seek a future in agriculture. Here at the Georgia State College there is a growing tendency of boys to look on farming as a vocation in which there will be a comfortable and independent living and opportunity for large service. Out of last year's high school class, many of the brightest and best boys are returning for study and for preparation for leadership on the farms of the South.

The State industrial colleges keenly appreciate their obligation, responsibility, and opportunity in this great problem facing Southern agriculture. They seek the hearty cooperation of every friend of progress in their efforts to build a permanent and satisfying life on our farms.—Commission on Inter-racial Cooperation, Atlanta.

Lincoln, Ga., Journal

and tenants, the number declined in five years to 84,077, a net loss of 46,110, or 35.4 per cent. The number of negro tenants declined from 113,938 to 72,206, or 36.7 per cent; the number of owners and managers fell from 16,249 to 11,871, or 26.9 per cent. Assuming that most of these farmers were heads of families, it is estimated that this meant a total loss of population of two hundred thousand or more.

During the same period there was also a falling off in the number of white farmers, but the losses were not nearly so heavy, being 6.8 per cent for tenants, 10.7 for owners and managers, and 8.6 per cent in the aggregate. In 1920 there were in the state 180,545 white farmers and 130,187 negro farmers, against 165,018 and 84,077 respectively in

1925, showing a rapid decline in the proportion of negro farmers to the total rural population. The so-called "black belt" it is said, is rapidly breaking up, as negroes leave the farms for southern cities and northern industrial centers.

NOV 3 1927

## MANY NEGRO FARMERS HAVE LEFT GEORGIA

ATLANTA, Ga.—In the five years ending with 1925 Georgia lost more than one-third of its negro farmers, according to a study of Federal Census reports just made by Arthur F. Raper, secretary of the Georgia committee on race relations. From a total in 1920 of 130,187 colored farmers, including owners, managers,



Agriculture - 1927

Georgia.

## Condition of Independent's Agricultural Column

By P. H. STONE, Agricultural Editor

Jackson County, Georgia, offers some fine examples of prosperity and thrift among its farmers.

At a recent fair and conference in Jefferson, Georgia, conducted by the efficient home demonstration agent, Mrs. M. R. Torbert, scores of these farmers came, bringing wagon and automobile loads of the products of their farms to place on exhibit, and one farmer, Mr. Enoch Butler brought an exhibit from his farm consisting of practically every product now grown in the soil of Georgia. Mr. Butler said, "If I were imprisoned on my farm for a year, I would have no cause to ask for aid from the outside."

Mrs. Torbert says that there is unusual activity among the junior and farm clubs this year, and that a steady cash income is being made by many members through the sale of milk, butter, poultry products, baskets, axes, handles and fancy work, and she concludes by saying that if you want some good looking home-cured meat, meet the Jackson County farmers at the Southeastern Fair in October.

Elsewhere in the Constitution today is published the results of the Georgia State College of Agriculture's "more and better cotton per acre" contest.

The facts presented in this report are of unusual interest and concern to all the people of Georgia. They show that a year's production of cotton on a volume basis at a reasonable cost. If we do this we can compete successfully with any section of the country. They indicate the necessity of an intensified production and show that this constitutes one of the chief mediums through which the cotton farmer can better his condition. The man who is not in position, therefore, to raise a half bale and upward of cotton per acre in 1927 should do some careful thinking before pitching his crop.

As a striking illustration of what a properly balanced farm program, coupled with hard work can do, we are publishing on this page a news article from the Dublin Courier-Herald that ought to be read by every farmer in Georgia. In four years a young Laurens County man paid for a farm, paid a deficit of \$1,500 that accumulated as a result of the first year of incorrect operations, and has a net inventory profit of \$7,193. In the meantime he lived happily and contentedly, and incurred no debt for living expenses.

The newspaper draws the conclusion that there is "more in the man than in the land." In this instance Julian Witherington and his family worked hard, economized, applied sound principles, and profited.

The point is—what one man can do another can do. We are face to face today with crop planning. It is the big problem that every farmer must confront. It is the problem that commands the cooperation of business man, banker, consumer, farmer—everybody.

It will be folly to make any program that does not provide first of all for the growing of all necessary food and feed for the family and the stock—not for a few months, but for the year from harvest season to harvest season.

The program that includes the hog, the cow, the hen—and the feed stuffs, the pastures, etc., that are required for such a program—is one that can scarcely be improved upon. Cotton, of course, will and should be grown, but it should be a fixed, net surplus.

The effort should be to grow more cotton to the acre. This can be accomplished only by intensive cultivation. That is less acres to the plow, better seed beds, better seed, more hard work.

The weevil must not be forgotten. Because growing seasons for two years have been favorable there is no such thing as weevil extermination. They may or may not be as prolific in 1927 as at any time since the southeastern invasion.

All in all, the 1927 farm program is the most important issue before the people of Georgia today, and it is of deep concern to everyone.

By W. R. MACK

The Farmers' conference, an auxiliary of Walker Baptist association, is now holding its 15th annual session at the Walker Institute of this city. The doors were thrown wide on yesterday morning promptly at 10 o'clock. President J. L. Bennett, presiding. Choice music was furnished by 100 voices, students of Walker institute, under the direction of Madam Maud H. Jones, and prayer was offered by Rev. W. D. Morman.

The introductory talk by President Bennett was the beginning of the greatest conference in the history of the organization. Quite 500 anxious representatives and farmers were present and the program consisting of farm subjects was given rapt attention. Among the speakers were D. W. Willis, of Jefferson, R. G. Ellerson, of Burke, R. G. Lockhart, of Jefferson, and W. M. Gordon, of Burke. There were practical, but interesting speakers, and the large audience of farmers was never more appreciative than on this occasion.

The visitors and delegates were served at luncheon in the spacious dining room of Walker institute at high noon following which talks were made relative to the Walker institute, the old historic high school of Walker association, founded by the late Drs. C. T. Walker, T. J. Hornsby, W. G. Johnson and others, forty years ago, when there were but few high schools for our group in the state.

The afternoon session was great in many respects. Reports from various auxiliary from all over the bounds of Walker association held the audience spell-bound for hours. Madam B. B. Berrien, of the Woman's mission, made a splendid showing for the women and pledged such funds at the next annual session also. He is at the head of the day school and plans to give an account of the thousands of young folks next August. Rev. R. C. Calhoun, president of the B. Y. P. U. gave the big audience to know that not a stone would be left unturned by his vast army of B. Y. P. U. workers.

"Plant less cotton and more food stuffs," was the theme of the many talks in the morning. "To Lee's talk."

The afternoon session was great in many respects. Reports from various auxiliary from all over the bounds of Walker association held the audience spell-bound for hours. Madam B. B. Berrien, of the Woman's mission, made a splendid showing for the women and pledged such funds at the next annual session also. He is at the head of the day school and plans to give an account of the thousands of young folks next August. Rev. R. C. Calhoun, president of the B. Y. P. U. gave the big audience to know that not a stone would be left unturned by his vast army of B. Y. P. U. workers.

"Plant less cotton and more food stuffs," was the theme of the many talks in the morning. "To Lee's talk."

The evening program. The town turned out, so to speak, to the Tabernacle, the evening program being a musical contest between the fellow for all the meat and large following choirs of the city: Liberty, Antioch, Second Providence, Cumming Grove and Tabernacle.

The program was one of the most enjoyable affairs of the season and too much can not be said in high compliment of all the participants. The judges were Mrs. M. M. MacFerrin, Miss Dorothy Halbert and Prof. James B. Bartch, who rendered the following decision: Tabernacle, first prize; Antioch, second prize; Second Providence, third prize; Cumming Grove, fourth prize; and Liberty, fifth prize.

D. W. Willis said Jefferson county is the best place to live in the world. We kill more meat than we need and raise everything we eat from collard greens to ham and chickens.

R. G. Lockhart said: "Plant all the cotton you want to, but don't expect cotton to buy your eatables." He said further: "It is a nice thing to have a bale of cotton when in need of a few dollars."

Prof. S. H. Lee, Rosenwald building agent and field agent for the Georgia Teachers' and Educational association, gave some highly interesting facts relative to Rosenwald schools. He said among other things:

"Thirteen years ago, Mr. Julius Rosenwald, began this work on the advice of the late Booker T. Washington. The first six were built in Macon county, Ala. Since that time these schools have spread as far north as Kentucky and Maryland, and west to Oklahoma and Texas, covering the fourteen southeastern states. To July 1, 1926, a total of 3433 of these schools had been completed with North Carolina leading to the tune 545 against Georgia 150. Several of the other states are well beyond the 300 mark.

The combined capacity of Rosenwald schools will accommodate 8000 teachers and over 300,000 pupils, not a small philanthropy.

I am employed as field agent on a fifty-fifty basis by the state teachers and educational association and the Rosenwald fund to carry this information to any and all communities over the state that may want a Rosenwald school.

Last year through the untiring efforts of special supervisor, Walter B. Hill and the field agent, 22

school of Walker association, founded by the late Drs. C. T. Walker, T. J. Hornsby, W. G. Johnson and others, forty years ago, when there were but few high schools for our group in the state.

The afternoon session was great in many respects. Reports from various auxiliary from all over the bounds of Walker association held the audience spell-bound for hours. Madam B. B. Berrien, of the Woman's mission, made a splendid showing for the women and pledged such funds at the next annual session also. He is at the head of the day school and plans to give an account of the thousands of young folks next August. Rev. R. C. Calhoun, president of the B. Y. P. U. gave the big audience to know that not a stone would be left unturned by his vast army of B. Y. P. U. workers.

"Plant less cotton and more food stuffs," was the theme of the many talks in the morning. "To Lee's talk."

The evening program. The town turned out, so to speak, to the Tabernacle, the evening program being a musical contest between the fellow for all the meat and large following choirs of the city: Liberty, Antioch, Second Providence, Cumming Grove and Tabernacle.

The program was one of the most enjoyable affairs of the season and too much can not be said in high compliment of all the participants. The judges were Mrs. M. M. MacFerrin, Miss Dorothy Halbert and Prof. James B. Bartch, who rendered the following decision: Tabernacle, first prize; Antioch, second prize; Second Providence, third prize; Cumming Grove, fourth prize; and Liberty, fifth prize.

D. W. Willis said Jefferson county is the best place to live in the world. We kill more meat than we need and raise everything we eat from collard greens to ham and chickens.

R. G. Lockhart said: "Plant all the cotton you want to, but don't expect cotton to buy your eatables." He said further: "It is a nice thing to have a bale of cotton when in need of a few dollars."

Prof. S. H. Lee, Rosenwald building agent and field agent for the Georgia Teachers' and Educational association, gave some highly interesting facts relative to Rosenwald schools. He said among other things:

"Thirteen years ago, Mr. Julius Rosenwald, began this work on the advice of the late Booker T. Washington. The first six were built in Macon county, Ala. Since that time these schools have spread as far north as Kentucky and Maryland, and west to Oklahoma and Texas, covering the fourteen southeastern states. To July 1, 1926, a total of 3433 of these schools had been completed with North Carolina leading to the tune 545 against Georgia 150. Several of the other states are well beyond the 300 mark.

The combined capacity of Rosenwald schools will accommodate 8000 teachers and over 300,000 pupils, not a small philanthropy.

I am employed as field agent on a fifty-fifty basis by the state teachers and educational association and the Rosenwald fund to carry this information to any and all communities over the state that may want a Rosenwald school.

Last year through the untiring efforts of special supervisor, Walter B. Hill and the field agent, 22

school of Walker association, founded by the late Drs. C. T. Walker, T. J. Hornsby, W. G. Johnson and others, forty years ago, when there were but few high schools for our group in the state.

The afternoon session was great in many respects. Reports from various auxiliary from all over the bounds of Walker association held the audience spell-bound for hours. Madam B. B. Berrien, of the Woman's mission, made a splendid showing for the women and pledged such funds at the next annual session also. He is at the head of the day school and plans to give an account of the thousands of young folks next August. Rev. R. C. Calhoun, president of the B. Y. P. U. gave the big audience to know that not a stone would be left unturned by his vast army of B. Y. P. U. workers.

"Plant less cotton and more food stuffs," was the theme of the many talks in the morning. "To Lee's talk."

The evening program. The town turned out, so to speak, to the Tabernacle, the evening program being a musical contest between the fellow for all the meat and large following choirs of the city: Liberty, Antioch, Second Providence, Cumming Grove and Tabernacle.

The program was one of the most enjoyable affairs of the season and too much can not be said in high compliment of all the participants. The judges were Mrs. M. M. MacFerrin, Miss Dorothy Halbert and Prof. James B. Bartch, who rendered the following decision: Tabernacle, first prize; Antioch, second prize; Second Providence, third prize; Cumming Grove, fourth prize; and Liberty, fifth prize.

D. W. Willis said Jefferson county is the best place to live in the world. We kill more meat than we need and raise everything we eat from collard greens to ham and chickens.

R. G. Lockhart said: "Plant all the cotton you want to, but don't expect cotton to buy your eatables." He said further: "It is a nice thing to have a bale of cotton when in need of a few dollars."

Prof. S. H. Lee, Rosenwald building agent and field agent for the Georgia Teachers' and Educational association, gave some highly interesting facts relative to Rosenwald schools. He said among other things:

"Thirteen years ago, Mr. Julius Rosenwald, began this work on the advice of the late Booker T. Washington. The first six were built in Macon county, Ala. Since that time these schools have spread as far north as Kentucky and Maryland, and west to Oklahoma and Texas, covering the fourteen southeastern states. To July 1, 1926, a total of 3433 of these schools had been completed with North Carolina leading to the tune 545 against Georgia 150. Several of the other states are well beyond the 300 mark.

The combined capacity of Rosenwald schools will accommodate 8000 teachers and over 300,000 pupils, not a small philanthropy.

I am employed as field agent on a fifty-fifty basis by the state teachers and educational association and the Rosenwald fund to carry this information to any and all communities over the state that may want a Rosenwald school.

Last year through the untiring efforts of special supervisor, Walter B. Hill and the field agent, 22

school of Walker association, founded by the late Drs. C. T. Walker, T. J. Hornsby, W. G. Johnson and others, forty years ago, when there were but few high schools for our group in the state.

The afternoon session was great in many respects. Reports from various auxiliary from all over the bounds of Walker association held the audience spell-bound for hours. Madam B. B. Berrien, of the Woman's mission, made a splendid showing for the women and pledged such funds at the next annual session also. He is at the head of the day school and plans to give an account of the thousands of young folks next August. Rev. R. C. Calhoun, president of the B. Y. P. U. gave the big audience to know that not a stone would be left unturned by his vast army of B. Y. P. U. workers.

"Plant less cotton and more food stuffs," was the theme of the many talks in the morning. "To Lee's talk."

The evening program. The town turned out, so to speak, to the Tabernacle, the evening program being a musical contest between the fellow for all the meat and large following choirs of the city: Liberty, Antioch, Second Providence, Cumming Grove and Tabernacle.

The program was one of the most enjoyable affairs of the season and too much can not be said in high compliment of all the participants. The judges were Mrs. M. M. MacFerrin, Miss Dorothy Halbert and Prof. James B. Bartch, who rendered the following decision: Tabernacle, first prize; Antioch, second prize; Second Providence, third prize; Cumming Grove, fourth prize; and Liberty, fifth prize.

D. W. Willis said Jefferson county is the best place to live in the world. We kill more meat than we need and raise everything we eat from collard greens to ham and chickens.

R. G. Lockhart said: "Plant all the cotton you want to, but don't expect cotton to buy your eatables." He said further: "It is a nice thing to have a bale of cotton when in need of a few dollars."

Prof. S. H. Lee, Rosenwald building agent and field agent for the Georgia Teachers' and Educational association, gave some highly interesting facts relative to Rosenwald schools. He said among other things:

"Thirteen years ago, Mr. Julius Rosenwald, began this work on the advice of the late Booker T. Washington. The first six were built in Macon county, Ala. Since that time these schools have spread as far north as Kentucky and Maryland, and west to Oklahoma and Texas, covering the fourteen southeastern states. To July 1, 1926, a total of 3433 of these schools had been completed with North Carolina leading to the tune 545 against Georgia 150. Several of the other states are well beyond the 300 mark.

The combined capacity of Rosenwald schools will accommodate 8000 teachers and over 300,000 pupils, not a small philanthropy.

I am employed as field agent on a fifty-fifty basis by the state teachers and educational association and the Rosenwald fund to carry this information to any and all communities over the state that may want a Rosenwald school.

Last year through the untiring efforts of special supervisor, Walter B. Hill and the field agent, 22

school of Walker association, founded by the late Drs. C. T. Walker, T. J. Hornsby, W. G. Johnson and others, forty years ago, when there were but few high schools for our group in the state.

The afternoon session was great in many respects. Reports from various auxiliary from all over the bounds of Walker association held the audience spell-bound for hours. Madam B. B. Berrien, of the Woman's mission, made a splendid showing for the women and pledged such funds at the next annual session also. He is at the head of the day school and plans to give an account of the thousands of young folks next August. Rev. R. C. Calhoun, president of the B. Y. P. U. gave the big audience to know that not a stone would be left unturned by his vast army of B. Y. P. U. workers.

"Plant less cotton and more food stuffs," was the theme of the many talks in the morning. "To Lee's talk."

The evening program. The town turned out, so to speak, to the Tabernacle, the evening program being a musical contest between the fellow for all the meat and large following choirs of the city: Liberty, Antioch, Second Providence, Cumming Grove and Tabernacle.

The program was one of the most enjoyable affairs of the season and too much can not be said in high compliment of all the participants. The judges were Mrs. M. M. MacFerrin, Miss Dorothy Halbert and Prof. James B. Bartch, who rendered the following decision: Tabernacle, first prize; Antioch, second prize; Second Providence, third prize; Cumming Grove, fourth prize; and Liberty, fifth prize.

D. W. Willis said Jefferson county is the best place to live in the world. We kill more meat than we need and raise everything we eat from collard greens to ham and chickens.

R. G. Lockhart said: "Plant all the cotton you want to, but don't expect cotton to buy your eatables." He said further: "It is a nice thing to have a bale of cotton when in need of a few dollars."

Prof. S. H. Lee, Rosenwald building agent and field agent for the Georgia Teachers' and Educational association, gave some highly interesting facts relative to Rosenwald schools. He said among other things:

"Thirteen years ago, Mr. Julius Rosenwald, began this work on the advice of the late Booker T. Washington. The first six were built in Macon county, Ala. Since that time these schools have spread as far north as Kentucky and Maryland, and west to Oklahoma and Texas, covering the fourteen southeastern states. To July 1, 1926, a total of 3433 of these schools had been completed with North Carolina leading to the tune 545 against Georgia 150. Several of the other states are well beyond the 300 mark.

The combined capacity of Rosenwald schools will accommodate 8000 teachers and over 300,000 pupils, not a small philanthropy.

I am employed as field agent on a fifty-fifty basis by the state teachers and educational association and the Rosenwald fund to carry this information to any and all communities over the state that may want a Rosenwald school.

Last year through the untiring efforts of special supervisor, Walter B. Hill and the field agent, 22

school of Walker association, founded by the late Drs. C. T. Walker, T. J. Hornsby, W. G. Johnson and others, forty years ago, when there were but few high schools for our group in the state.

The afternoon session was great in many respects. Reports from various auxiliary from all over the bounds of Walker association held the audience spell-bound for hours. Madam B. B. Berrien, of the Woman's mission, made a splendid showing for the women and pledged such funds at the next annual session also. He is at the head of the day school and plans to give an account of the thousands of young folks next August. Rev. R. C. Calhoun, president of the B. Y. P. U. gave the big audience to know that not a stone would be left unturned by his vast army of B. Y. P. U. workers.

"Plant less cotton and more food stuffs," was the theme of the many talks in the morning. "To Lee's talk."

The evening program. The town turned out, so to speak, to the Tabernacle, the evening program being a musical contest between the fellow for all the meat and large following choirs of the city: Liberty, Antioch, Second Providence, Cumming Grove and Tabernacle.

The program was one of the most enjoyable affairs of the season and too much can not be said in high compliment of all the participants. The judges were Mrs. M. M. MacFerrin, Miss Dorothy Halbert and Prof. James B. Bartch, who rendered the following decision: Tabernacle, first prize; Antioch, second prize; Second Providence, third prize; Cumming Grove, fourth prize; and Liberty, fifth prize.

D. W. Willis said Jefferson county is the best place to live in the world. We kill more meat than we need and raise everything we eat from collard greens to ham and chickens.

R. G. Lockhart said: "Plant all the cotton you want to, but don't expect cotton to buy your eatables." He said further: "It is a nice thing to have a bale of cotton when in need of a few dollars."

Prof. S. H. Lee, Rosenwald building agent and field agent for the Georgia Teachers' and Educational association, gave some highly interesting facts relative to Rosenwald schools. He said among other things:

"Thirteen years ago, Mr. Julius Rosenwald, began this work on the advice of the late Booker T. Washington. The first six were built in Macon county, Ala. Since that time these schools have spread as far north as Kentucky and Maryland, and west to Oklahoma and Texas, covering the fourteen southeastern states. To July 1, 1926, a total of 3433 of these schools had been completed with North Carolina leading to the tune 545 against Georgia 150. Several of the other states are well beyond the 300 mark.

The combined capacity of Rosenwald schools will accommodate 8000 teachers and over 300,000 pupils, not a small philanthropy.

I am employed as field agent on a fifty-fifty basis by the state teachers and educational association and the Rosenwald fund to carry this information to any and all communities over the state that may want a Rosenwald school.

Last year through the untiring efforts of special supervisor, Walter B. Hill and the field agent, 22

school of Walker association, founded by the late Drs. C. T. Walker, T. J. Hornsby, W. G. Johnson and others, forty years ago, when there were but few high schools for our group in the state.

The afternoon session was great in many respects. Reports from various auxiliary from all over the bounds of Walker association held the audience spell-bound for hours. Madam B. B. Berrien, of the Woman's mission, made a splendid showing for the women and pledged such funds at the next annual session also. He is at the head of the day school and plans to give an account of the thousands of young folks next August. Rev. R. C. Calhoun, president of the B. Y. P. U. gave the big audience to know that not a stone would be left unturned by his vast army of B. Y. P. U. workers.

"Plant less cotton and more food stuffs," was the theme of the many talks in the morning. "To Lee's talk."

The evening program. The town turned out, so to speak, to the Tabernacle, the evening program being a musical contest between the fellow for all the meat and large following choirs of the city: Liberty, Antioch, Second Providence, Cumming Grove and Tabernacle.

The program was one of the most enjoyable affairs of the season and too much can not be said in high compliment of all the participants. The judges were Mrs. M. M. MacFerrin, Miss Dorothy Halbert and Prof. James B. Bartch, who rendered the following decision: Tabernacle, first prize; Antioch, second prize; Second Providence, third prize; Cumming Grove, fourth prize; and Liberty, fifth prize.

D. W. Willis said Jefferson county is the best place to live in the world. We kill more meat than we need and raise everything we eat from collard greens to ham and chickens.

R. G. Lockhart said: "Plant all the cotton you want to, but don't expect cotton to buy your eatables." He said further: "It is a nice thing to have a bale of cotton when in need of a few dollars."

Prof. S. H. Lee, Rosenwald building agent and field agent for the Georgia Teachers' and Educational association, gave some highly interesting facts relative to Rosenwald schools. He said among other things:

"Thirteen years ago, Mr. Julius Rosenwald, began this work on the advice of the late Booker T. Washington. The first six were built in Macon county, Ala. Since that time these schools have spread as far north as Kentucky and Maryland, and west to Oklahoma and Texas, covering the fourteen southeastern states. To July 1, 1926, a total of 3433 of these schools had been completed with North Carolina leading to the tune 545 against Georgia 150. Several of the other states are well beyond the 300 mark.

The combined capacity of Rosenwald schools will accommodate 8000 teachers and over 300,000 pupils, not a small philanthropy.

I am employed as field agent on a fifty-fifty basis by the state teachers and educational association and the Rosenwald fund to carry this information to any and all communities over the state that may want a Rosenwald school.

Last year through the untiring efforts of special supervisor, Walter B. Hill and the field agent, 22



# The Plight of the Southern Negro Farm Owner

By BENJAMIN F. HUBERT  
President, Georgia State Industrial College

"It ain't hardly much use of If Negroes are to remain on the man trying to farm and have any farms of the South, if they are to thing these days our children won't continue to own and operate the mil- stay here and don't seem to want to- sions of acres that they already pos- sess, and help build here in the f:m."

I was talking to H. H. Mayers, a Southland a great people, and a fine looking, upstanding Negro far- greater South, there must be: mer of Barnwell County, South Car- 1. A redirection of education in olia. He is owner of 170 acres of the South. Our schools must some- fine farm land, located on the pub- how be taught to exalt the ordinary lic road. There is a good home or things of life. I mean by this that this place. A windmill sends running that children will understand and ap- water through the house. He has pre- ciate values. The child must farmed for 47 years. He has owned grow up appreciating the great out- the farm for over 30 years. He has doors. The school must be able to reared a fine family and most of the show the value of this as opposed ing in cities engaged in other kinds to the veneer of city life.

of work. Across the road is another 2. Fathers and mothers must be colored farmer, proud owner of 270 gin early, teaching their boys the acres of land. But of his boys long love of independence, open air living ago grew tired of farm life and the hunting, fishing and honest country two old people "carry on" as best folk-the like of whom cannot be they can with little hope of ever pas- found anywhere else in the world sing on this splendid farm to children These primary desires once made a who will cherish it and farm it as a part of children will be hard to monument to their parents. There change.

are other Negro farm owner opera- 3. Children must be allowed to tors in this community. share in the management, and owner- ship of the farm. They must fee- community and of these two for- ship of the farm. They must fee- ners; Georgia, the Carolinas, Ala- that the farm and all of its pro- bama, Mississippi, and every other ducts is theirs, that it is a coopera- state where Negro farmers own tive business with father and moth- er. These primary desires once made a same human life stories.

As I walked and talked with this farmer, looked at his fine crops of cotton, corn and sugar cane, well fed hogs, cows and mules that he showed with so much pride, I wondered just what the answer would be to this statement that he had made. There are 22,000 farms owned by Negroes in South Carolina in order that the farmer may have a fair chance in the economic and social race with other workers. Far- farms continue to be owned and oper- arms continue to be owned and oper- ing is a primary occupation. It is ated by our group? Will it be pos- sible to augment this number of fore, it is the statesmanlike thing arms by other farms, owned and for a country to provide for its fu- operated by young colored men who- ture growth and permanency.

are acquainted with the modern 5. There should be greater diver- way of diversified farming? Can sification resulting in less danger we look forward confidently to an in- from complete failures and provid- creasing large number of Negro ing more cash crops. communities where the people are 6. More social conveniences mus- happy and contented, thinking and be carried to the rural districts planning for a great future here in Boys and girls will not be conten- to remain where there is not a mod- ern school, a good church, lights, good roads and a community socia-

## The Future of Negro Rural Life.

It is difficult to know what the future will bring But if the econo- mic and rural history of other peo- ples mean anything to us, we may draw some conclusions which can State authorities must not only

make it safe for the old farmer and his wife, they must see to it that the children get a chance to live. Law- lessness must go. Every man wants to feel secure when he turns in after a long day's toil. If this security cannot be had, then there will be a strong urge to go to some place where he can feel secure, happy and contented.

8. The leaders in every rural com- munity ought to see to it that at least one boy or girl, of the many leaving for high school and college every year, go away fired with the ambition to know more about agri- culture and home life. A larger number of the boys and girls should be directed to the state colleges where people are charged with the responsibility of leadership in prob- lems that affect the life of the people in the rural districts of the State.

## A Ray of Light.

Some years ago while director of agriculture at the State College of South Carolina, I called attention to these alarming tendencies in Negro rural life. Even the casual observer today would agree that what seemed hardly noticeable at that time have developed to alarming proportions to- day.

The most encouraging sign of promise and of hope today is the small, but growing number of Negro boys in college who are beginning to seek a future in agriculture. Here at the Georgia State College, there is a growing tendency of boys to look on farming as a vocation in which there will be a comfortable and independent living and opportu- nity for large service. Out of the high school class of 1927, many of the brightest and best boys are re- turning for study and for preparation for leadership on the farms of the South.

The Georgia State Industrial Col- lege keenly appreciates its obliga- tions, responsibility, and opportunity in this great problem facing southern agriculture, especially as it related to the colored farmer. It seeks the hearty cooperation of every friend of progress in its efforts to build a permanent and satisfying life on our farms.

Lexington, Ga. Echo

AUG 19 1927

NEGROES' GOOD FARMERS

It is becoming more apparent from year to year that the negro is capa- ble of making a good farmer. In fact it has been the labor of the ne- gro, for all these years, that has pro- duced a greater portion of the ag- ricultural products of the South. It is true, the exodus of the negroes to

eastern and western states, has caus- tions. The opportunity is here for ed a considerable falling off of farm improved conditions among the ne- labor and much idle land has result- groes. They are known and under- ed from their departure. However, stood by the white people of the those who have remained in the South South and with the proper co-opera- and devoted their efforts to farming, tion that race can be greatly helped have something to show for their in- and improved.—Covington News.

In many localities in this state, negroes own valuable farm lands and succeed in growing splendid crops. It is interestin gto note the increase in land purchases by the negro. In fact many of them own their homes in the towns and cities as well as farms. The white people of the South are not only kind and gene- rous to the negro, but whenever a deserving spirit is shown on their part, white citizens never fail to rally to their support and to aid them in every way possible.

The Charlotte (N. C.) Observer in commenting on the negro farmer makes the following timely remarks:

"Southern farmers have made note n recent years of the progress being scored by the negroes on the farm This progress is indicated largely in the circumstance that instead of be- ing content with occupation as crop- pers, they are turning to land own- ership. It is home ownership in the towns that has revolutionized the condition of the negro in the town, and farm owning is doing the same for him in the country. Mere know- edge of possession of farm or home makes a better citizen of the negro. The system of agricultural work among the negroes is largely respon- sible for their recent advancement on the farm. The agricultural de- partment at Washington is advertant to this fact in the coue of a report that it has just made covering the different phases of that work for the past ten years. The encouraging word is sent out that Southern negro farmers are learning better methods of farming and home making." They are becoming land- owners as a result of their renewed interest. The report maintains that home-ownership is the largest factor in the solution of the so-called negro problem.—Charlotte, N. C., Observer.

Wherever you find a land owner among the negroes you are absolute- ly certain to find a law abiding and industrious citizen. The white peo- ple of the South should continue to encourage the negroes to become thrifty and self supporting and aid them in so far as possible to acquire farm lands and homes. The indus- trious negro is never out of a job; there is work for him at all times with reasonable pay for his services. The negro who applies himself and devotes his energies to farming is bound to succeed in life more so than he would in following other avoca-

ton is advertent to this fact in the course of a report it has just made covering the different phases of that work for the past ten years. The encouraging word is sent out that Southern negro farmers "are learning better methods of farming and home making." They are becoming land- owners as a result of their renewed interest. The report maintains that home-ownership is the largest factor in the solution of the so-called negro problem.—Charlotte, N. C., Observer.

## Farm Progress By Negroes

SOUTHERN farmers have made note in recent years of the progress being scored by the negroes on the farm. This progress is indicated largely in the circumstance that instead of be- ing content with occupation as croppers, they are turning to land ownership. It is home-ownership in the towns that has revolutionized the condition of the negro in the town, and farm-owning is do- ing the same for him in the country. Mere knowl- edge of possession of farm or home makes a better citizen of the negro. The system of agricultural extension work among the negroes is largely re- sponsible for their recent advancement on the farm. The agricultural department at Washing-

NEWS  
JUL 24 1927







Agriculture - 1927

Condition of  
NEW YORK  
TIMES

AUG 3 1927

## SAYS FARM POLITICS LINK SOUTH TO WEST

Beard, at Institute of Politics,  
Criticizes Administration on  
'Dollar Policy' Abroad.

### COMPARISONS STIR DEBATE

Divergence of Urban and Rural  
Views Here Is Likened to  
British Dominions' Growth.

### 'AMERICAN MUSSOLINI' SEEN

Professor Spencer of Ohio Says  
Public Indifference to Government  
Will Bring Dictator.

From a Staff Correspondent of The New  
York Times.

WILLIAMSTOWN, Mass., Aug. 2.—The possibility of an American Mussolini seizing dictatorial powers some time in the future as a result of long-continued public indifference to public affairs; a probable agricultural and political alliance of the South and West because of the neglect of the farmers' welfare in the United States; the relations between Great Britain and her overseas possessions, the differences between American and European law, and the characteristics of European political parties were discussed at today's meeting of the Institute of Politics.

Professor Henry R. Spencer of Ohio State University, at the round table on dictatorships, proposed the theory of an American dictator. Referring to the apathy which causes only about 50 per cent. of the quali-

fied voters to cast their ballots in national elections, he said:

"When public spirit goes to sleep, the dark powers have their chance. When self-government lapses, an empire of wealth or corruption results. If the Constitution, which is the life of the being, is suspended too long, it dies."

Democracy, he said, was liable to a disease of neglect like anesthesia in its effects, and would die in time if neglected.

He pointed out, however, that dictatorships were not necessarily evil or self-seeking, but might be benevolent.

#### Lincoln as a "Beneficent" Dictator.

Abraham Lincoln, he went on, was a dictator in a sense, and was a beneficent one. Lincoln, he explained, was in the position of a statesman who, laboring under great responsibilities, lacked legal power to accomplish what he believed necessary for the good of the country, and therefore seized power in order to wield it "for the safety of the State."

"Dictatorship," he continued, "is an instrumentality of crisis, a crisis to an extraordinary degree."

He likened a dictator to a receiver in bankruptcy who takes over a concern or a nation "which has plenty of assets, but cannot realize on them." A dictatorship in a democracy, he went on, might result from "anything that makes a democracy impotent, such as civil war or invasion."

Inasmuch as temporariness was an essential feature of dictatorship, he said, it was in a way a misnomer to call Mussolini a dictator.

"What Napoleon did," he explained, "Mussolini seems to be doing—establishing an autocracy, which may be benevolent."

He said the situation in Italy had passed beyond that of a true dictatorship, although it was still in a critical, transitional stage.

The true dictator, he went on, was dismissed to private life as soon as the conditions that brought about the "receivership" were remedied, and was succeeded by democratic control.

"If he [the dictator] yields to the temptation to turn autocracy into irresponsible empire," Professor Spencer added, "he has become the destroyer of true law and stable order."

#### Sees Democracy Based on Economics.

Dr. Robert Michels, Professor of Economics at the University of Basle, Switzerland, questioned the value of democratic government under methods used on election days to persuade or to compel voters. Dr. Albert C. Dieffenbach of Boston replied that people may be growing too cynical about democracy. Federal Judge George W. Anderson of Boston asserted that democracy appeared to be developing upon principles of economic power.

Speaking at the round table on American agriculture, Professor Charles A. Beard, historian, formerly of Columbia University, ridiculed President Coolidge's "wearing cow-

boy breeches and fishing with worms in Western waters"; criticized Secretary of the Navy Wilbur's recent speech on the protection of American capital invested in foreign fields, and defended the McNary-Haugen Farm Relief bill as "an experimental adventure."

Professor Beard predicted and endorsed an agricultural and political alliance between the South and the West, recalling that before the Civil War and the growth of industrialism the United States was ruled by farmers and planters. He went on:

"There are signs at hand that the old union may again be renewed under a broader social philosophy and more competent leadership. Personally, I hope that the new confederation may be effected and may command talents equal to the occasion. It would be good for the country and give politics a refreshing tone."

The speaker emphasized the importance of a prosperous agriculture in a well-balanced national economy.

"Capital and labor," he went on, "are organized to do business and can buy the brains necessary to develop their jurisprudence. The farmers are unorganized, without great centralized economic power, and handicapped in all the arts of planning, executing and defending, realistic and moral."

#### Sees Colored Races Tilling Soil.

"If this keeps up for another hundred years at the present rate, we shall pass the point now reached by England. More than nine-tenths of our people will live in industrial cities, will depend upon the caprices and fluctuations of foreign trade for their livelihood, while the cultivation of the soil will pass mainly into the hands of colored races. The contact of our people with nature will be limited largely to contact with the golf course, the Summer boarding house, the cement road and the cowboy moving picture show."

"If, in the economy of Providence, this is to be our destiny, then it may

be said as of old that the judgments of the Lord are just and altogether righteous. But quite a number of people, especially the farmers, are alarmed by the prospect. In my opinion, their alarm is justified. The coordination of agriculture and machine industry in the interests of a balanced economy related to the task of maintaining the essential economic independence of America is the supreme task of the contemporary statesmen."

Professor Beard advocated heavier income and inheritance taxes to pay for rural roads, schools and electric power plants, saying that every dollar taken "from the surplus of plutocracy" and diverted from foreign investments to domestic use was a gain to America and also a gain to foreign countries, who would then save instead of borrowing.

#### Links Foreign Investment and War.

"Incidentally," he went on, "this would reduce our chances of becoming mixed up in the next European

adventure in Christian ballistics. If the present rate of foreign investments keep up, every village skinflint from Maine to California will soon have a hundred-dollar foreign bond paying 8 per cent. instead of the 6 per cent. local rate; and thus inspired will be by a holy zeal for righteousness, justice or whatever the next warlike device may be, which means at bottom a lust to get the money back with interest."

He also urged that the American investor abroad be given to understand that this country will not "fetch it (his money) home on a silver platter."

"In an exalted strain of morals," he continued, "our genial Secretary of the Navy recently declared in effect that the American empire extended to any point in the world where there was an American dollar invested, and that the armed might of the country must be strong enough to defend the said dollar. If we teach and practice that creed, then we must calculate the cost."

Professor Beard favored rapid development of cooperation among farmers in planting, disposing of the surplus and distribution of costs and profits, and of greater distribution of crops.

"In the development of this cooperative policy," he added, "the farmers are entitled to use the Federal and State Governments, just as other economic interests use those agencies."

#### Compares Farm Aid and Tariff.

As to the McNary-Haugen bill, he said:

"Must of the arguments against it seem to me to apply also to the economic and juristic devices of capitalism. To call it paternalistic and then turn around and supply a merchant marine to shippers, a protective tariff to manufacturers, and military and naval protection to anybody who tries to make money in China, Haiti or Nicaragua is to dissolve the show in comedy."

"The McNary-Haugen bill might do little to improve the lot of the farmer, but in any case it might help as much as wearing cowboy breeches and fishing with worms in Western waters."

The Beard speech provoked much discussion at the round table. The Rev. Dr. Henry A. Stimson argued that the American West could never have been developed as it has been without loans from the East and from Europe. Dr. Beard admitted this and conceded the rôle played by capital in the development of civilization, but said he was "distinguishing between borrowing."

He declared that he was in favor of an adequate defense for the country, but did not approve of defending "every American dollar invested around the world."

W. W. Cumberland, financial adviser to the Haitian Government, declared that farmers did not come off badly in political achievement, to which Professor Beard replied that "the farmer has all the political power that anybody having his income may expect to enjoy."

Clarence Ousley of Dallas, Texas, Secretary of the round table, declared that "apparently not a single mind in New England reacts to this important question of saving the agriculture which feeds and clothes the people of America."

Dr. Walter W. McLaren, Secretary of the Institute, a member of the Faculty of Williams College and President of the new "floating university" Aurania, said that the conference would devote itself to nation planning through its session.

Professor Herbert Heaton of Queens University, Canada, at the round table on the British Commonwealth of Nations, said there was a marked indifference and lack of knowledge on the part of the "man in the street" in Great Britain toward the British colonies. He said it took the World War to produce a commonwealth based on equality, but admitted that in Canada, for instance, there may still be a clash of dominant and subordinate attitudes on the part of the British and the natives.

#### Dominions on a New Status.

Although he insisted that the question of whether the colonies would follow the mother country into another war did not come to a head



## NEGRO FARM TENANCY

The table which appears in this issue is evident that there has been a steady gives the number of negro tenant migration of negroes from the South farmers in each of fourteen South-Atlantic states northward, with a concern states in 1910 and in 1925. It also considerable number of them stopping in indicates in each case the ratio of North Carolina. There appears also to tenants to the total number of negro have been a migration from the Gulf farmers. The table was limited to states westward into the newer cotton those states in which there is a areas in Oklahoma and Texas.

relatively large number of negro farmers. The states are ranked on the basis of negro tenancy ratios. In Virginia only 33.8 percent of the negro population are easier to explain than farmers are tenants; in Mississippi the consequences. The boll weevil has 87.1 percent are tenants. The other been an expulsive force; the negro Southern states lie between these two farmers have tried to advance ahead extremes. 70-26-27

More significant, perhaps, than the find it to their economic advantage to present tenancy ratio is the trend. Is migrate from areas with a high negro it upwards or downwards? Our computations reveal that in ten states the ratio to areas with lower negro ratios— ratios were higher in 1925 than in 1910, in other words to spread out. Possibly and in four states the opposite was the migration has been prompted in true. Incidentally, North Carolina's part by the prospect of better schools, negro tenancy ratio increased from better institutional facilities, better race relations. 67.7 to 72.7, not a very encouraging commentary. Only in Texas was the An increase of 15,189 negro tenant increase greater. Florida witnessed farmers in North Carolina in fifteen the greatest reduction, its tenancy years can hardly be an unmitigated blessing. The addition of these land- ratio falling from 49.7 to 42.8. Taking less hordes from regions further south the entire fourteen states the negro introduces serious problems—both economic and social. The presence of new tenancy ratio increased from 76.0 in 1910 competitors hinders the economic to 76.6 in 1925. While any increase in advance of our native farm tenants, and makes a reduction in farm tenancy tenancy is to be deplored it is worthy more difficult. The influx of thousands of notice that the increase among of homeless negroes, unacquainted and negroes was less than among whites in anadjusted, makes for social disturbances. There is an increase in the same area.

### A Numerical Decrease

Numerically seven states showed an increase in negro tenancy in the fifteen-year period and seven a decrease. Taking the entire group of states the number of negro farm tenants decreased from 667,913 in 1910 to 635,612 in 1925. In the same period the number of negro farm owners decreased in these states from 210,116 to 193,638. In other words, there was an exodus of negro farmers from the South rather than any appreciable passing from tenancy into ownership.

A study of the table reveals that the number of negro tenant farmers increased slightly in Virginia, Maryland, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana, and increased phenomenally in Texas and North Carolina. On the other hand, there were slight decreases in Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, South Carolina and Mississippi, and phenomenal de-

creases in Alabama and Georgia. It is evident that there has been a steady migration of negroes from the South to the newer cotton areas in Oklahoma and Texas.

### Causes and Effects

The causes of the shifting of negro population are easier to explain than the consequences. The boll weevil has been an expulsive force; the negro farmers have tried to advance ahead of it. Again the negroes generally find it to their economic advantage to migrate from areas with a high negro ratio to areas with lower negro ratios— in other words to spread out. Possibly the migration has been prompted in part by the prospect of better schools, better institutional facilities, better race relations.

An increase of 15,189 negro tenant farmers in North Carolina in fifteen years can hardly be an unmitigated blessing. The addition of these landless hordes from regions further south introduces serious problems—both economic and social. The presence of new competitors hinders the economic advance of our native farm tenants, and makes a reduction in farm tenancy more difficult. The influx of thousands of homeless negroes, unacquainted and unadjusted, makes for social disturbances. There is an increase in crime, race friction, and social maladjustments of every sort.—Paul W. Wager.

## NEGRO TENANT FARMERS IN THE SOUTH

### Number and Ratio, 1910 and 1925

The following table shows the number of negro tenant farmers in each of the Southern states in 1910 and in 1925. It also indicates in each case what percent of the total number of negro farmers the tenants represent. The table is based on United States Census statistics.

It will be noticed that the absolute number of negro tenant farmers increased in seven states and decreased in seven states. The tenancy ratios increased in ten states and decreased in four. Mississippi has the largest number of negro tenants, as well as the highest tenancy ratio; nevertheless the number has decreased by nearly twenty thousand since 1915. North Carolina witnessed the greatest increase numerically, and Texas the greatest relative increase. There appears to be a gradual movement of negro farmers northward and westward.

Paul W. Wager

Department of Rural Social-Economics, University of North Carolina

Rank	State	1910		1925	
		Negro tenant farmers	Percent of all negro farmers	Negro tenant farmers	Percent of all negro farmers
1	Virginia.....	15,691.....	32.6.....	16,928.....	33.8
2	Maryland.....	2,334.....	36.6.....	2,510.....	37.3
3	Florida.....	7,311.....	49.7.....	5,148.....	42.8
4	Kentucky.....	5,753.....	49.1.....	5,747.....	53.6
5	Oklahoma.....	8,370.....	63.4.....	11,348.....	56.6
6	North Carolina.....	43,676.....	67.7.....	58,865.....	72.7
7	Tennessee.....	27,551.....	72.0.....	25,412.....	73.3
8	Texas.....	48,554.....	69.6.....	61,840.....	75.7
9	South Carolina.....	76,285.....	79.0.....	72,179.....	79.7
10	Alabama.....	93,288.....	84.5.....	70,539.....	82.7
11	Arkansas.....	48,872.....	76.9.....	52,181.....	73.8
12	Louisiana.....	44,062.....	80.4.....	49,913.....	83.9
13	Georgia.....	106,733.....	87.1.....	72,206.....	85.9
14	Mississippi.....	139,433.....	84.8.....	130,796.....	87.1



## Condition of

## THE NEGRO AS A FARMER

Current History for December contains an article by the late William S. Scarborough, eminent negro educator and former president of Wilberforce University, dealing with the progress of negro farmers. In this article, the last he wrote before his death, Dr. Scarborough told of some interesting observations on the subject made in Virginia, where there are many negro farming communities.

"The negro farmer may be one of the chief factors in the solution of our negro problem," he wrote, and farther on he said:

"The negro is at his best as a farmer. In this occupation, for which he is pre-eminently fitted by Nature, he may learn to know his own defects and mistakes, gaining ability daily for that self-measurement necessary to any progress."

Dr. Scarborough estimated that there are 925,708 negro farmers in the United States, 218,612 of whom are owners of land, 2,026 managers operating for those who own it, and 705,070 tenants or renters.

Of the negro farming communities in Virginia, he said their freedom from lawlessness and crime is noteworthy, the people being too busily engaged in shaping their own future to think of law violation. "The average wealth of these negro landowners is \$8,420.23 and in two decades their land has increased almost 1,000 per cent in value. . . . They have accumulated what wealth they have in spite of the fact that they seldom enjoy the benefits of the credit and farm loan systems, due to racial discrimination. They have, however, been admitted into co-operative movements and have made their influence felt in them. These farmers, in general, give their children good educations."

The information given by Dr. Scarborough indicates some real progress on the part of negro farmers in general. It is a pleasing sign, and one in which the South is interested, inasmuch as the great majority of these farmers are in this section. In his statement that "the negro is at his best as a farmer," Dr. Scarborough was hardly mistaken. History bears it out. When they were brought to America in large numbers, it was soon found that they were best suited for agriculture, and accordingly the plantations of the South became their home. They were, at that time, at any rate, inefficient at industrial work.

Negro migration in recent years has resulted in large numbers of them finding employment in industrial plants in the North. Likewise, no few of them are now employed at work of this kind in the South. In many forms of industrial occupation they have proven reasonably efficient. Education and the progress of the race have remedied many of their earlier defects in this respect. In the professions, too, some of them have been successful.

But it doubtless remains a fact that the negro is at his best as a farmer. His development has been contemporaneous with the development of agriculture in the United States. The fact is significant. Whether or not, as Dr. Scarborough wrote, "the negro farmer may be one of the chief factors in the solution of our negro problem," it is true that the negro farmer can accomplish more for himself, and more for the community and the country, by sticking to agriculture and applying himself to it than he could by engaging in any other occupation.

## CONCERTED ACTION IS NEEDED IN SOUTH

### Conference Discusses Plans For Reclaiming Abandoned Farms; Seek \$50,000 For Survey

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—(AP)—The south has retarded its own economic advancement by failure of southern states to secure the unity of action which brought reclamation to the west, delegates from southern states were told today by L. J. Folse, of Mississippi, at the department of interior's conference on plans to reclaim abandoned southern farms.

Mississippi was ready to get behind whatever plan might be offered by the department's advisory committee, Folse said. The committee recently inspected unprofitable rural sections in six southern states and drafted a program for rehabilitation based on their survey. Folse expressed hope that the other states including North and South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee and Alabama, would cooperate in carrying out the committee recommendations.

The question are we ready in the south to take advantage of the information the government has to offer and to forget individual and community interests and take hold of something that will be of benefit to all, he said, "if we get back of a

plan such as suggested by reclamation Commissioner Mead, I predict in 25 years agriculture in the south will be revolutionized."

Mr. Folse said business men in the south were organizing to demand of congressional delegations that they secure action in furtherance of the advisory committee's plans.

Dr. Elwood Mead, reclamation commissioner, told the delegates that at least \$50,000 would be needed by the bureau of reclamation for determining the requirements of different southern projects.

He expressed the conviction a program could be mapped out which would make agricultural regions as highly organized as great manufacturing areas.

H. A. Brown, chief of the division of settlement and economic operation, reclamation bureau, said that between 1920 and 1925 there were decreases in acreage of farms producing nearly all principal products of the south. The south could ill afford to suffer such a diminution of acreage, he said, especially in view of the losses to hog and dairy cattle raising.

The southern visitors were hosts tonight to the southern congressional delegations of the six interested states.

The delegates were greeted by Secretary Work of the interior department who complimented them on their eagerness to organize for carrying out the special committee's recommendations.

### A NEGRO DISCUSSES BLACK BELT PROBLEMS

Editor The Advertiser:

You have been kind enough in the past to give space in your valuable paper from time to time for the discussion of Black Belt problems, all of which have been with great interest and much appreciation. We beg a continuance of the same kind of favor in the future.

The assertion that there are serious problems facing the people of the Black Belt is more truth than poetry. We are aware of the fact that everywhere in this country the farmers are having their problems. The recent passage and veto of the McNary-Haugen bill attest this fact. But the problems of the average farmer elsewhere in this country is one of overproduction. They seek a way to get rid of their surplus crops. Our problem here is one of underproduction, we seek a way to make a surplus. Not only that, but we seek a way to make what we need. It is a hard saying, but the truth is, we do not make enough in this section for home consumption. Our deficit is increasing each year.

Since the advent of the boll weevil more than a decade ago, the farmers in this section have been suffering from short crops or from underproduction. No only have the farmers suffered, but the landlords and merchants have shared in this misfortune. The landlords have made very little money during this period, except for timber sales, and all that have kept the merchants going has been the trade obtained from the hundreds of saw mills, dotted here and there throughout this section.

But the landlords have no more timber to sell and soon all of the saw mills will move to other places in search of timber. We think our problems are grave now, but they will

be acute then. With the timber all sold, the landlord's income will disappear, the saw mills all moved away, the merchant's trade will decrease. What then will be in store for the landlords; what then for the merchants, and what for the tenants? At present there are few, if any, comfortable tenant houses on any of these large plantations, and if the landlords could not build comfortable houses for their tenants when they had the timber and the saw mills at their doors, how can they now build comfortable houses, when the timber is all sold and the saw mills all moved away?

"If thou has run with the footmen and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with the horses; and if in the land of peace wherein thou trustedest, they wearied thee, then how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan?"

During the years since the advent of the weevils, the large plantations have been deteriorating, ditches have been filling up, terraces have been washing away, and erosion has been the result to a very large extent. This process has greatly reduced the productivity of the soil. On the other hand, tenants have been moving away year after year until now few if any of the large plantations are supplied with sufficient labor. It is a very rare thing now to see a new ditch being cut or an old one being cleared out in this section.

While we sometimes cease our activities, nature never does, where she is not building up she is tearing down. Where she is not constructing, she is destroying, where she is not making alive she is killing dead. Where we will aid she will help, where we neglect she will destroy. And so as we have been neglecting during the last decade, nature has gotten in her deadly and destructive work, and the worst is not yet. What then? Shall we all run away from the country, from the Black Belt, to seek food and shelter elsewhere, as many advise? God forbid. We should renew our determination to stay here, we should "let down our buckets where we are." We should determine to make the Black Belt the garden spot of this country. The old tenant system is doomed and cannot be successfully re-established. The old way in which the negro tenants have worked for 40 or 50 years coming out each year just a little behind, or just even, and in few cases just a little ahead, cannot long be continued. There is nothing in such a system to induce the young negro to stay on the farm, but everything in it to drive him away.

What are the things, after all, that build up any community? Among other things they are incentives for home, religious freedom and education. In all the advertisements sent out from the cities and other places desiring to build up, these incentives are included and too the terms are made so reasonable that any industrious person can take advantage of them. Hence the great rush to such places. All of our states were settled because of them. Think of the sacrifices and endurance of the early settlers because of these glorious incentives. Human nature changes but little.

The great need of the negro in this section today is some powerful incentive to hold and keep him on the farm. Home, education and a reasonable profit for his labor will supply these incentives. I do not wish to be misunderstood as saying or advocating that the landlords should sell all of their large plantations, but there is enough land for every negro farmer to own his own home and farm, and he should be encouraged and given a chance to do so. You can get the best service out of slaves from fear, but incentives

alone will get the best service out of free men. If such a program as here outlined could be followed in regard to the negro, it would make for stability and good citizenship. It would bring prosperity where there is now adversity, it would bring health where there is now sickness, it would bring life where there is now death. The landlord and others who would pursue such a course would be hailed as great benefactors of the negro race, and not only of the negro race, but of humanity. It has always been hard for man to see that the more his neighbor has, the more he will have. Somehow he believes that the less his neighbor has, the more he will have. I venture the assertion that if such incentives as I have mentioned above could be held out to the negro everywhere in the Black Belt this entire section would be reincarnated with new life. We would then have

3-12-27



## CONDITION OF THE NEGRO AS A FARMER

Current History for December contains an article by the late William S. Scarborough, eminent negro educator and former president of Wilberforce University, dealing with the progress of negro farmers. In this article, the last he wrote before his death, Dr. Scarborough told of some interesting observations on the subject made in Virginia, where there are many negro farming communities.

"The negro farmer may be one of the chief factors in the solution of our negro problem," he wrote, and farther on he said:

"The negro is at his best as a farmer. In this occupation, for which he is pre-eminently fitted by Nature, he may learn to know his own defects and mistakes, gaining ability daily for that self-measurement necessary to any progress."

Dr. Scarborough estimated that there are 925,708 negro farmers in the United States, 218,612 of whom are owners of land, 2,026 managers operating for those who own it, and 705,070 tenants or renters.

Of the negro farming communities in Virginia, he said their freedom from lawlessness and crime is noteworthy, the people being too busy engaged in shaping their own future to think of law violation. "The average wealth of these negro landowners is \$8,420.23 and in two decades their land has increased almost 1,000 per cent in value. . . . They have accumulated what wealth they have in spite of the fact that they seldom enjoy the benefits of the credit and farm loan systems, due to racial discrimination. They have, however, been admitted into co-operative movements and have made their influence felt in them. These farmers, in general, give their children good educations."

The information given by Dr. Scarborough indicates some real progress on the part of negro farmers in general. It is a pleasing sign, and one in which the South is interested, inasmuch as the great majority of these farmers are in this section. In his statement that "the negro is at his best as a farmer," Dr. Scarborough was hardly mistaken. History bears it out. When they were brought to America in large numbers, it was soon found that they were best suited for agriculture, and accordingly the plantations of the South became their home. They were, at that time, at any rate, inefficient at industrial work.

Negro migration in recent years has resulted in large numbers of them finding employment in industrial plants in the North. Likewise, no few of them are now employed at work of this kind in the South.

In many forms of industrial occupation they have proven reasonably efficient. Education and the progress of the race have remedied many of their earlier defects in this respect. In the professions, too, some of them have been successful.

But it doubtless remains a fact that the negro is at his best as a farmer. His development has been contemporaneous with the development of agriculture in the United States. The fact is significant. Whether or not, as Dr. Scarborough wrote, "the negro farmer may be one of the chief factors in the solution of our negro problem," it is true that the negro farmer can accomplish more for himself, and more for the community and the country, by sticking to agriculture and applying himself to it than he could by engaging in any other occupation.

## CONCERNED ACTION IS NEEDED IN SOUTH

Conference Discusses Plans For Reclaiming Abandoned Farms; Seek \$50,000 For Survey

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—(AP)—The South has retarded its own economic advancement by failure of southern states to secure the unity of action which brought Federal aid to the well-to-do from southern states were told today by L. J. Folse, of Mississippi, at the department of interior's conference of plans to reclaim abandoned southern farms.

Mississippi was ready to get behind whatever plan might be offered by the department's advisory committee, Folse said. The committee recently inspected unprofitable rural sections in six southern states and drafted a program for rehabilitation based on their survey. Folse expressed hope that the other states including North and South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee and Alabama, would cooperate in carrying out the committee recommendations. "We are ready in the South to take advantage of the information the government has to offer and to forget individual and community interests and take hold of something that will be of benefit to all," he said, "if we get back of a

plan such as suggested by reclamation Commissioner Mead. I predict in 25 years agriculture in the south will be revolutionized."

Mr. Folse said business men in the south were organizing to demand of congressional delegations that they secure action in furtherance of the advisory committee's plans.

Dr. Elwood Mead, reclamation commissioner, told the delegates that at least \$50,000 would be needed by the bureau of reclamation for determining the requirements of different southern projects.

He expressed the conviction a program could be mapped out which would make agricultural regions as highly organized as great manufacturing areas.

H. A. Brown, chief of the division of settlement and economic operation, reclamation bureau, said that between 1920 and 1925 there were decreases in acreage of farms producing nearly all principal products of the south. The south could ill afford to suffer such a diminution of acreage, he said, especially in view of the losses to hog and dairy cattle raising.

The southern visitors were hosts tonight to the southern congressional delegations of the six interested states. The delegates were greeted by Secretary Work of the interior department who complimented them on their eagerness to organize for carrying out the special committee's recommendations.

### A NEGRO DISCUSSES BLACK BELT PROBLEMS

Editor The Advertiser:

You have been kind enough in the past to give space in your valuable paper from time to time for the discussion of Black Belt problems, all of which have been with great interest and much appreciation. We beg a continuance of the same kind of favor in the future.

The assertion that there are serious problems facing the people of the Black Belt is more truth than poetry. We are aware of the fact that everywhere in this country the farmers are having their problems. The recent passage and veto of the McNary-Haugen bill attest this fact. But the problems of the average farmer elsewhere in this country is one of overproduction. They seek a way to get rid of their surplus crops. Our problem here is one of underproduction. We seek a way to make a surplus. Not only that, but we seek a way to make what we need. It is a hard saying, but the truth is, we do not make enough in this section for home consumption. Our deficit is increasing each year.

Since the advent of the boll weevil more than a decade ago, the farmers in this section have been suffering from short crops or from underproduction. No only have the farmers suffered, but the landlords and merchants have shared in this misfortune. The landlords have made very little money during this period, except for timber sales, and all that have kept the merchants going has been the trade obtained from the hundreds of saw mills, dotted here and there throughout this section.

But the landlords have no more timber to sell and soon all of the saw mills will move to other places in search of timber. We think our problems are grave now, but they will

be acute then. With the timber all sold, the landlord's income will disappear. The saw mills all moved away, the merchant's trade will decrease. What then will be in store for the landlords? What then for the merchants, and what for the tenants? At present there are few, if any, comfortable tenant houses on any of these large plantations, and if the landlords could not build comfortable houses for their tenants when they had the timber and the saw mills at their doors, how can they now build comfortable houses, when the timber is all sold and the saw mills all moved away?

"If thou has run with the footmen and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with the horses; and if in the land of peace wherein thou trustedest, they wearied thee, then how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan?"

During the years since the advent of the weevils, the large plantations have been deteriorating, ditches have been filling up, terraces have been washing away, and erosion has been the result to a very large extent. This process has greatly reduced the productivity of the soil. On the other hand, tenants have been moving away year after year until now few if any of the large plantations are supplied with sufficient labor. It is a very rare thing now to see a new ditch being cut or an old one being cleared out in this section.

While we sometimes cease our activities, nature never does, where she is not building up she is tearing down. Where she is not constructing, she is destroying. Where she is not making alive she is killing dead. Where we will aid she will help, where we neglect she will destroy. And so as we have been neglecting during the last decade, nature has gotten in her deadly and destructive work, and the worst is not yet. What then? Shall we all run away from the country, from the Black Belt, to seek food and shelter elsewhere, as many advise? God forbid. We should renew our determination to stay here, we should "get down our buckets where we are." We should determine to make the Black Belt the garden spot of this country. The old tenant system is doomed and cannot be successfully re-established. The old way in which the negro tenants have worked for 40 or 50 years coming out each year just a little behind, or just even, and in few cases ahead, is nothing in such a system to induce the young negro to stay on the farm, but everything in it to drive him away.

What are the things, after all, that build up any community? Among other things, they are incentives for home, religious freedom and education. In all the advertisements sent out from the cities and other places desiring to build up, these incentives are included and too the terms are made so reasonable that any industrious person can take advantage of them. Hence the great rush to such places. All of our states were settled because of them. Think of the sacrifices and endurance of the early settlers because of these glorious incentives. Human nature changes but little.

The great need of the negro in this section today is some powerful incentive to hold and keep him on the farm. Home, education and a reasonable profit for his labor will supply these incentives. I do not wish to be misunderstood as saying or advocating that the landlords should sell all of their large plantations, but there is enough land for every negro farmer to own his own home and farm, and he should be encouraged and given a chance to do so. You can get the best service out of slaves from fear, but incentives

alone will get the best service out of free men. If such a program as here outlined could be followed in regard to the negro, it would make for stability and good citizenship. It would bring prosperity where there is now adversity, it would bring health where there is now sickness, it would bring life where there is now death. The landlord and others who would pursue such a course would be hailed as great benefactors of the negro.

It has always been hard for man to see that the more his neighbor has, the more he will have. Somehow he believes that the less his neighbor has, the more he will have.

I venture the assertion that if such incentives as I have mentioned above could be held out to the negro everywhere in the Black Belt this entire section would be reincarnated with new life. We would then have

strong, robust young men and women to till the soil instead of a few old men and women who have already spent their best days, and are only here because they cannot go elsewhere. The negro would endure many hardships and make many sacrifices in order to obtain the blessings of a home, a farm and a chance to educate his children.

Just now there is no healthy growth of negro churches and schools in this section, because of the transitory character of the



population. Just now the negro is constantly moving from place to place and in many cases going to the North or elsewhere. As a result of such unstable conditions the landlords, the merchants and all parties concerned suffer.

The landlords of this section must learn to make money out of something else besides cotton. There are many profitable industries into which he could put his surplus money from the sale of land.

We speak much of diversifying crops, but as long as the tenant must depend upon the grocery store for food supplies and must pay landlords rent for land, he can do but little in the way of diversifying his crops. The merchants and the landlords want cotton and that the tenants must plant.

I believe it was in the providence of God that the negro was brought here from Africa. I believe that it was the same providence that suffered him to remain here 250 years as a slave and the same providence that made him free. God wants service out of us all. He can get more service out of a slave than out of a heathen. But He can get the most service out of free men. So we long to be wholly free. No man can be wholly free whose economic conditions keep him on borrowed land and in debt from year to year.

In spite of our protestations we are our brother's keeper. W. J. EDWARDS.  
President Black Belt Improvement League,  
Snow Hill, Alabama

SELMA, ALA., 1922

JAN 31 1927

## Home-Owning Among Negro Farmers

The Agricultural Department at Washington makes report of some commendable progress shown by negro farmers in the South. Instead of being content with the role of croppers hundreds of negro farmers have become owners and cultivators of their own small farms and have thus enlarged their usefulness and worth to the communities where they live. Farm-owning among the negroes has greatly increased during the past two decades and in every instance it has made a better and more stable farmer out of him.

The encouraging word is sent out that Southern negro farmers "are learning better methods of farming and home making." They are becoming land-owners as a result of their renewed interest. The report maintains that home-ownership is the largest factor in the solution of the so-called negro problem. Co-operative agriculture extension work has exerted a great influence in this direction. The gradual increase in the number of negro agents and also in appropriations for their support during the last 10 years gives much promise for the development of this work.

"It is a fine tribute to the good work of the negro agents," says the report, "that when the period of retrenchment came immediately after the World War, their forces and appropriations were the only ones which were not reduced."

## A WONDERFUL ARRAY OF FACTS ABOUT THE ADVANCING SOUTH.

[From the Anniston (Ala.) Star]

The Anniston Star is in receipt of the 1926 edition of the Blue Book of Southern Progress, published by the MANUFACTURERS RECORD of Baltimore. This annual volume is becoming as handy and authoritative a reference work with respect to the South as is the World Almanac to the nation at large and there is probably no man in the United States better able to speak with authority about the Southern States than is Richard H. Edmonds, who has done as much as any other one man for the development of this section.

Mr. Edmonds agrees with the opinion advanced by Dr. Lee Bidgood in his very able address here recently that the tide of immigration is turning this way. This Southward trend, he says, "promises to be the greatest voluntary movement of population within a brief period which the world has known since the movement of the Children of Israel out of Egypt into the Promised Land." As was stated by Dean Bidgood, this trend is largely actuated by climate, it having been learned that warm climes are less debilitating than cold. Mr. Darwin DeBussey, President of the New York Life Insurance Company, well has said that "the key that unlocks paradise is climate—and the South holds the key."

Recognizing this to be true, therefore, is it not well that we here in Anniston redouble our efforts to capitalize the wonderful climate we enjoy? Is it not worth while to build a better hotel, a better country club and a better golf course? Isn't tourist trade as worth while as industrial payrolls? Mr. Edmonds thinks so, for he declares that tourists often spend more in your town in a day than the industrial workman is able to spend in a month. Flagler came to Florida as a tourist, for instance, and invested there from \$75,000,000 to \$100,000,000 of his own money. Henry B. Plant, he says, was another tourist, and he in turn spent millions in building railways, hotels, resorts, etc., on the West Coast of the Peninsula.

Tourists and desirable settlers go where their opportunities are best. This was attested by the fact that 5,000,000 Southern-born whites left the Central South between 1865 and 1870. They went to places that were growing, to States and towns that were being backed with money and enthusiasm. Governor Graves says that more than 500,000 of these emigrants went from Alabama. They are now coming back, and if we would have them become citizens of Anniston we must needs provide an atmosphere that will be attractive and congenial. They will not share their lot with us unless we demonstrate that we have faith in ourselves and in the potential growth of this community. We all recoil from the specter of death, and nobody wants to move to a decadent town.

Every man who believes in the South should have a copy of the Blue Book of Southern Progress to reinforce his faith. It is being sent broadcast over the country by the Alabama Power Company, which is also doing a great work in advertising Alabama, and that example should be followed by us all. This paper, for instance, sends out a few copies every year, and they have brought results. The facts compiled are set forth in a very readable way, indexed and illustrated, and the arguments advanced with reference to the South are supported by others than Southerners themselves. Get a copy, therefore; study it, and pass it on to a friend in another section of the country.

The foregoing editorial from the Anniston Star of January 23, 1927, relates to the Blue Book of 1926. The Blue Book of 1927 is now in preparation and will, we are quite sure, surpass in interest and value every former edition. What the Anniston Star says in advising every one in the South to get a copy of the Blue Book will apply with special force to the 1927 edition, which will be ready for mailing about the usual time in April. Send in your order now. Single copies 50 cents. For larger orders the prices are: 1000 or more, 30 cents a copy; 500 or more, 40 cents a copy; less than 500, 50 cents a copy.

# Cotton Slaves in the South

THE Department of Agriculture publishes a list of food values. From that list you will find that the cheapest food on which life may be sustained is corn meal and bacon. That is exactly what the cotton slave in the south eats—home grown corn, ground in a small, filthy neighborhood mill and the cheapest imaginable bacon—fat back, butts meat or belly. This constitutes his food day in and day out, summer and winter, week days, Sundays and Christmas.

The U. S. Census Bureau discloses the fact that over fifty per cent of the farmers haven't a cow. They sometimes raise chickens on a farm, but that delicacy is for sale and not to be eaten. Likewise eggs are never eaten on the majority of farms. The only variety the farmers have from the universal diet of fat bacon and corn bread is the occasional addition of collard leaves, field beans, sweet potatoes.

The art of cooking did not progress to any extent on the southern farms. The only cooking utensil known is the frying pan. Corn bread is merely a dough made of corn meal, water and lard warmed in a fry pan. The center of the corn bread is raw. The fat bacon is not cut into strips, it is merely warmed in a fry pan. When field peas or collard leaves are prepared for the table, they are also warmed in a fry pan together with the bacon. Sweet potatoes are baked on the hearth of an open fireplace.

What neither the Department of Agriculture nor the Census Bureau publish, however, is the low wage scale which prevails in the cotton belt. Labor is hired by the year and a whole family is hired at the time. The usual rate for a family is \$300 a year. Since this sum is paid in the form of credit extended in a commissary or general store, and since these lien stores are well noted for their long profits, the cash equivalent would be nearer \$200. This sum must be sufficient for food, clothes, furniture, medicine and everything except living quarters, which is furnished by the owner.

The house is a dilapidated shack containing two rooms. In some localities tenant houses are built with mud chimneys. These chimneys are forever falling in and setting the houses on fire, but it is very easy to extinguish a fire when it starts and it only takes a day to repair a fallen mud chimney.

Windows and doors are hand-made. The floor is made of rough boards with large cracks between them. The walls are also made of rough boards and also contain cracks through which the wind enters.

There is no ceiling and the roof is made of shingles through which the stars shine. When it rains, the shingles swell rapidly and the rain enters only through the larger cracks. No pretense of paint or whitewash is in evidence and there is nothing by way of decoration or ornament except that the walls are covered with old calendars, circus posters and other picture advertisements. The family portraits hang on the walls, of course.

No attempt is made to keep the house or yard tidy. Everything wallows in filth. Very often the outhouse is adjacent to the well and since the well

is deeper it takes only a few seconds for the filthy seepage to reach the drinking water. Malaria fever is the pet complaint and a farmer spends one-third of his life in bed. Doctors are scarce and money with which to pay them still more so. Faith is pinned to one of the numerous brands of patent medicines with which the country abounds. The social life of these farmers is zero. They never go to church. They do not take any active part in politics and show no interest in any events. Their main copies of conversation are hunting, fishing, circulated rumors concerning shooting scares and hard times. Their deplorable plight is

I am afraid that the peasantry in the south will be harder to organize than were the peasants of Russia. Certainly, they are just as illiterate and their physical courage is not very substantial. Even the Ku Klux Klan found it hard to reach them with their propaganda, because they are tired and disinterested—in everything.



## A WONDERFUL ARRAY OF FACTS ABOUT THE ADVANCING SOUTH.

# Cotton Slaves in the South

population. Just now the negro is constantly moving from place to place and in many cases going to the North or elsewhere. As a result of such unstable conditions the landlords, the merchants and all parties concerned suffer.

The landlords of this section must learn to make money out of something else besides cotton. There are many profitable industries into which he could put his surplus money from the sale of land.

We speak much of diversifying crops, but as long as the tenant must depend upon the grocery store for food supplies and must pay the landlord rent for land, he can do but little in the way of diversifying his crops. The merchants and the landlords want cotton and that the tenants must plant.

I believe it was in the providence of God that the negro was brought here from Africa. I believe that it was the same providence that suffered him to remain here 250 years as a slave and the same providence that made him free. God wants service out of us all. He can get more service out of a slave than out of a heathen. But he can get the most service out of free men. So we long to be wholly free. No man can be wholly free whose economic conditions keep him on borrowed land and in debt from year to year.

In spite of our protestations we are our brother's keeper. W. J. EDWARDS, President Black Belt Improvement League, Snow Hill, Alabama.

DELIVERED BY

JAN 31 1927

## Home-Owning Among Negro Farmers

The Agricultural Department at Washington makes report of some commendable progress shown by negro farmers in the South. Instead of being content with the role of croppers hundreds of negro farmers have become owners and cultivators of their own small farms and have thus enlarged their usefulness and worth to the communities where they live. Farm-owning among the negroes has greatly increased during the past two decades and in every instance it has made a better and more stable farmer out of him.

The encouraging word is sent out that Southern negro farmers "are learning better methods of farming and home making." They are becoming land-owners as a result of their renewed interest.

The report maintains that home-ownership is the largest factor in the solution of the so-called negro problem. Co-operative agriculture extension work has exerted a great influence in this direction. The gradual increase in the number of negro agents and also in appropriations for their support during the last 10 years gives much promise for the development of this work.

"It is a fine tribute to the good work of the negro agents," says the report, "that when the period of retrenchment came immediately after the World War, their forces and appropriations were the only ones which were not reduced."

(From the Anniston (Ala.) Star)

The Anniston Star is in receipt of the 1926 edition of the Blue Book of Southern Progress, published by the MANUFACTURERS RECORD and authoritative reference work with coming as handy and authoritative a reference work with respect to the South as is the World Almanac to the nation at large. It is a valuable and interesting volume, and it is a pleasure to speak with authority about the Southern States and the progress which they have made in the last decade.

Mr. Edmunds agrees with the opinion advanced by Dr. Bidgood in his very able address here recently that the trend of immigration is turning this way. The Southward movement of population is the greatest voluntary movement known since the Promised Land. As was stated by Dean Egypt into this trend is largely actuated by climate, it having been found that warm climates are less debilitating than cold. Mr. Edmunds thinks so, for he declares that tourists often spend more in their town in a day than the industrial work-man is able to spend in a month. Flagler came to Florida as a tourist, for instance, and invested there from \$75,000,000 to \$100,000,000 of his own money. Henry B. Plant, he says, was another tourist, and he in turn spent millions in building railways, hotels, resorts, etc., on the West Coast of the Peninsula.

Tourists and desirable settlers go where their opportunities are best. This was attested by the fact that 5,000,000 Southern-born whites left the Central South between 1865 and 1870. They went to places that were growing, to States where and towns that were being backed with money and enthusiasm. Governor Graves says that more than 500,000 of these emigrants went from Alabama. They are now coming back, and if we would have them become citizens of Anniston we must needs provide an atmosphere that will be attractive and congenial. They will not share their lot with us unless we demonstrate that we have faith in ourselves and in the potential growth of this community. We all recoil from the specter of death, and nobody wants to move to a decadent town.

Every man who believes in the South should have a copy of the Blue Book of Southern Progress to reinforce his faith. It is being sent broadcast over the country by the Alabama Power Company, which is also doing a great work in advertising Alabama, and that example should be followed by us all. This paper, for instance, sends out a few copies every year, and they have brought results. The facts compiled are set forth in a very readable way, indexed and illustrated, and the arguments advanced with reference to the South are supported by others than Southerners themselves. Get a copy, therefore, study it, and pass it on to a friend in another section of the country.

The foregoing editorial from the Anniston Star of January 22, 1927, relates to the Blue Book of 1926. The Blue Book of 1927 is now in preparation and will, we are quite sure, surpass in interest and value every former edition. What the Anniston Star says in advising every one in the South to get a copy of the Blue Book will apply with special force to the 1927 edition, which will be ready for mailing about the usual time in April. Send in your order now. Single copies 50 cents. For larger orders the prices are: 1000 or more, 30 cents a copy; 500 or more, 40 cents a copy; less than 500, 50 cents a copy.

THE Department of Agriculture publishes a list of food values. From that list you will find that the cheapest food on which life may be sustained is corn meal and bacon. That is exactly what the cotton slave in the south eats—home grown corn, ground in a small, filthy neighborhood mill and the cheapest imaginable bacon—fat back, butts meat or belly. This constitutes his food day in and day out, summer and winter, week days, Sundays and Christmas.

The U. S. Census Bureau discloses the fact that over fifty per cent of the farmers haven't a cow. They sometimes raise chickens on a farm, but that delicacy is for sale and not to be eaten. Likewise eggs are never eaten on the majority of farms. The only variety the farmers have from the universal diet of fat bacon and corn bread is the occasional addition of collard leaves, field peas and sweet potatoes.

The art of cooking did not progress to any extent on the southern farms. The only cooking utensil known is the frying pan. A piece of fat is warmed in a deep made of iron or steel and laid warmed in a frying pan. The center of the corn bread is jaw. The fat bacon is not cut into strips, but is merely warmed in a fry pan. When field peas or collard leaves are prepared for the table, they are also warmed in a fry pan together with the bacon. Sweet potatoes are baked in the heart of an open fire-place.

What neither the Department of Agriculture nor the Census Bureau publish, however, is the low scale which prevails in the cotton belt. Labor is hired by the year and a whole family is hired at the time. The usual rate for a family is \$300 a year. Since this sum is paid in the form of credit extended in a commissary or general store, and since these hen stores are well noted for their long profits, the cash equivalent would be nearer \$200. This sum must be sufficient for food, clothes, furniture, medicine and everything except living quarters, which is furnished by the owner.

The house is a dilapidated shack containing two rooms. In some localities tenant houses are built with mud chimneys. These chimneys are forever falling in and setting the houses on fire, but it is very easy to extinguish a fire when it starts and it only takes a day to repair a fallen mud chimney. Windows and doors are hand-made. The floor is made of rough boards with large cracks between them. The walls are also made of rough boards and also contain cracks through which the wind enters.

There is no ceiling and the roof is made of shingles through which the stars shine. When it rains, the shingles swell rapidly and the rain enters only through the larger cracks. No pretense of paint or whitewash is in evidence and there is nothing but a way of decoration or ornament except that the walls are covered with old calendars, circus posters and other picture advertisements. The family portraits hang on the walls, of course. No attempt is made to keep the house or yard tidy. Everything wallows in filth. Very often the outhouse is adjacent to the well and since the well

is deeper it takes only a few seconds for the filthy seepage to reach the drinking water. Malaria fever is the pot complaint and a farmer spends one-third of his life in bed. Doctors are scarce and money with which to pay them still more so. Faith is pinned to one of the numerous brands of patent medicines with which the country abounds.

The social life of these farmers is zero. They never go to church. They do not take any active part in politics and show no interest in any events. Their main topics of conversation are hunting, fishing, circulated rumors concerning shooting snakes and hard times. Their deplorable plight is interesting in everything.



Agriculture - 1927

Condition of

# Back to the Farm

A T A LUNCHEON held the other day in the Hotel McAlpin, in New York, the above caption carries the sentiment expressed by the chief speaker, Dr. L. Podel, in advocacy of the National Farm School expansion project.

"Young graduates of schools go out into the world and after seven years' of specialized education start to get a start at \$10 a week. Most of them would be better off if they entered farming," said Mr. Podel. And he is right as far as their productive value to society is concerned, and from the point of view of investing their talent and life in the line of most profitable and effective expression for themselves. This fact is notably true in the colored group of our population.

Restive, this group is concerned with the increasingly acute problem, due to the growing caste and color prejudice in American industry and labor circles, of finding favorable fields of employment. Multiplying hundreds of Negro youth are graduating to-day from high school and college, and also from the universities, adequately equipped with technical training, competent to fit into the commercial and industrial scheme as are their white classmates, but who, because of the color of their skin (not the lack of brain power, or manual technic, or high ethical standards such as modern business demands), find the doors of business opportunity coldly closed in their faces. And yet we are citizens in America—"another name for opportunity." Despite the inability imposed by society to find in the social institutions and activities of the community ample opportunity for the exercise and development of our productive faculties for the social good, we are taunted with the charge of incapacity for skilled endeavor and for inability to become assimilated in the process of "Americanization." Continuing, Mr. Podel observes: "There are 76,000 less farmers to-day than in 1920, and men are going off the farms at the rate of a million close to our bread and butter."

And so the influence of natural causes of physical and cultural ill adaptation in other lines is reinforced by those other dissocial and unnatural causes of prejudice dictating the field of social activity for the exercise of their productive powers in case of Negro youth. Undoubtedly these considerations would operate more effectively not only to keep on the farm those who are descendants of the earlier and trustier tillers of the soil, but to induce still more to turn their ambitions and hopes of future usefulness to society in the direction of agriculture, were social conditions more tolerable and physical life secure on the farm, particularly in the rural

General.

South. Among the 76,000 farmers who have deserted the farms in the last decade, many of these were colored

farmers who, amid conditions of civic and economic fairness and security of themselves and their families, would have preferred a thousand times to live on the farms.

The Negro, by reason of attachment and habitual emotional attitudes, loves Southern soil. In a few brief

years the colored population of Georgia, for instance, has decreased from 46 per cent to 41 per cent of the

total whole. These Negroes and the whole horde of others who have gone recently from the cotton States

reflected first on the disadvantages and difficulties of social adjustment in their newly adopted Northern environment; but they "plunged," preferring to "flee to ills"

of which they were told rather than remain in the enervating circumstances of that environment in which they

had been brought up with its left-over psychology of dire days gone by. Thousands of Negroes have discovered that by reason of social insecurity in their prop-

erty and persons, the farm is not the best place for them, and to them the "back to the farm" slogan has little

appeal.

When rural life in this section shall have been made more secure for Negroes, they will again apply their in-

creasing store of scientific knowledge and skill gained in the laboratories of the high schools and universities to

the South's now infertile fields, tickling and teasing these so that erstwhile wildernesses will blossom and fruit like

the rose. He has the brawn and the brain, but needs the guarantee, by corporate social sanctions, of the security

necessary to peaceful and productive endeavor.

**LOWELL, MASS.**

*citizen*  
MAR 25 1927

North Carolina Negroes have evidently quit raising garden truck and gone back to cotton. We have at hand no governmental publication to tell us that this is so; but we get it by implication from an interview on southern conditions purveyed by that alert investigator and man of nimble

figures, Hon. John F. Fitzgerald. In enumerating advantages which textile North Carolina possesses over

textile New England, Mr. Fitzgerald says that "the raw material is right at its doors." Now that is discouraging, if so, for we have had it from

other authorities that in respect of supply of raw cotton New England rather holds the edge over its competitors of the Piedmont belt. Some

time ago somehow gave us the idea that less and less cotton is

grown in the Carolinas, since the farmers there are turning to the more profitable work of raising early vegetables for the New York market. We were given to understand that cotton in commercial quantities is now bought by the North Carolinians

as by us, in Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas, and that the charges for its shipment overland by rail into Winston-Salem and Gastonia measure up to and even exceed the costs of getting sea-borne cotton to Fall River and New Bedford via Galveston. Such was one of the comparative competitive conditions to which considerable publicity was given a few years ago. If in the interim, as per the Fitzgerald interview, North Carolina is again raising its own cotton and is staking off its dependence upon Texas, then we of textile New England may be a little worse out of luck than we had previously supposed. It is barely possible, however, that the agile Boston publicist traveled over the lines of the Southern rail-

road at the wrong time of year for observing whether the fields were planted with cotton or rhubarb.

## Flood Relief Measures Actively Under Way for Farmers.

Agricultural relief measures in the flooded area of the Mississippi Valley are proceeding satisfactorily, says a report to Secretary Jardine by C. W. Warburton, director of Extension Work in the Department of Agriculture. Mr. Warburton is representing the department at the flood-relief headquarters of the American Red Cross in Memphis, Tenn. Headquarters officials, Mr. Warburton reports, are making credit grants promptly to counties for seed and feed. Seed supplies are not difficult to locate, and are fairly reasonable in price. Cottonseed and seed corn can be obtained locally without difficulty, but it may be necessary, says Mr. Warburton, to ship in some supplies of cowpeas and soybeans.

Losses of cattle, hogs and poultry in the flooded area will be rather large in the aggregate. It is estimated that, out of probably 100,000 cattle in the flooded area of Mississippi, 10,000 have been lost. Hogs and poultry have been quite generally lost in the wide flooded districts. Before the flood there were perhaps 50,000 hogs in the flooded area of Mississippi. Livestock losses in Louisiana are expected to be relatively smaller, planters there having had more warning of the flood.

Figures on losses of livestock, Mr. Warburton says, are difficult to obtain. He believes losses of mules, horses and cattle in Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee and northern and western Arkansas were not heavy. In these States the flooded valleys were comparatively narrow and farmers could get their animals to high ground within a reasonable distance. The loss of work stock is not a serious matter so far as this season's production is concerned, because of the production in crop acreage that the flood will necessarily cause.

There have been considerable losses of stored commodities such as cotton which was stored on farms and in gins and in storage warehouses in Greenville, Miss., and other places. Many of these towns, however, are still flooded and the damage to stored products cannot yet be estimated.

Credit accounts for seed and feed amounting to \$75,000 have been made by the Red Cross to counties in Southeastern Missouri. Similar grants have been made in Illinois and Arkansas. These grants are based on information obtained as to the number of farmers needing help, the acreage to be planted, the cost of seed and the cost of feed for work stock for 30 days. So far relief has been confined to the counties in which planting can be started in the next few days. In Missouri it will be possible, Mr. Warburton believes, to plant most of the flooded acreage, with the exception of New Madrid county. Most of Illinois' flooded area, especially in the southern part of the State, is still under water and will not be planted for two or three weeks.

Sections in Western and Northeastern Arkansas are draining rapidly, and many counties have started planting or are ready to plant. In this State it is believed the curtailment of acreage will not be large, except in the southeastern part and in some of the counties in the St. Francis basin, which are still heavily flooded. It is estimated that Kentucky and Tennessee will plant perhaps two-thirds of their normal acreage in the flooded territory.



In Mississippi and Louisiana planting will depend on how factors say: "During generations the rapidly the waters recede. There have been heavy rains in existing system served an economic purpose. It supplied a type of work which the last week in Northern Mississippi. While some observers believe very small acreages of cotton will be planted in the several million uneducated negroes could flooded district of Mississippi, others believe it not improbable. Schools are now available to those able that at least half the normal acreage will be planted. negroes, and other types of work can be In Louisiana, because of the lateness of the flood there, plant-made available. Many have become land ings may possibly fall below 50 per cent of the normal owners and farm proprietors themselves. acreage in the flooded districts, although planting can con-The coming of the cotton picker now will tinue later there than in States farther north. prove a blessing not only to the cotton

Arkansas and Mississippi have taken steps toward the planter but to the South's negro farm organization of finance corporations for relief purposes. Ar-laborers. A generation ago it would have kansas has sent a delegation to Washington to confer with played havoc for years with a large part Secretary Mellon, Eugene Meyer and others, and Mississippi of the South's rural population."

## WALL STREET SCOLDS THE COTTON FARMER

The cotton farmer has long been suspicious of Wall Street "manipulators" and has expressed his suspicions rather freely. He has felt that Wall Street was not on his side and has generally favored those politicians who excelled in finding fault with the "manipulators."

But Wall Street claims to be innocent of any wrong. If the cotton farmer's condition is not sound, Wall Street disclaims responsibility for the fact, and turning on its critic, the cotton farmer blames him. At least that is the view expressed by The Wall Street Journal. In a recent editorial that newspaper said:

If the cotton producers as a whole want to see the real "market manipulator," a good look into the mirror will show them. The South itself, hanging on to its uneconomic system of production and marketing its great money crop is the real manipulator. It violates everything that stands for balanced farming; it retains a worn-out share system that keeps both cropper and land owner poor in a large portion of the belt; it gets a minimum of what the land can produce and generally at a maximum of expense. This system makes for no progress, and while everything else is going forward, keeps the farmers down.

Commenting on this tart lecture by The Journal, Fenner & Beane, New Orleans cotton factors, enter into a discussion of the new phase into which cotton growing seems to be approaching. Fenner & Beane say the presence of an unskilled type of labor in our cotton fields is responsible for the condition described by The Journal, and expresses the opinion that the moment a practical cotton picking machine is developed, the old system will disappear and cotton growing will be on a new and sounder basis. It has been reported in the papers lately that at last such a picking machine has been developed.

In a house letter to the press, the cot-

## RECLAMATION PROJECT TURNING TO SOUTH

Thousands of Acres in the Delta May Be Redeemed.

BY R. M. GATES

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—Member of Congress from Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana and other states today declared that the people of the section are ready to co-operate with the other states of the union in promoting a national policy and program of reclamation of swamp and cutover lands. In 1924 Congress authorized the appropriation of \$100,000 to make an investigation of the cutover and swamp lands of the country with a view to their reclamation. The initial appropriation of \$15,000 was made by the first session of the Sixty-ninth Congress and the Interior Department appropriated bill, just passed, carried a similar appropriation. It was today stated that the second deficiency appropriation will probably carry an additional \$20,000 for pushing the reclamation program which has been inaugurated. Southern congressmen contend that there is just as good reason for reclaiming the cutover lands of the north as the abandoned lands of other sections, the cutover and swamp lands of the south, as there is for reclaiming the arid lands of the west. The public interest is just as great in one case as in the other, and the federal warrant is just as large in one case as in the other. The sentiment has grown; public opinion has become crystallized. Reclamation must no longer be for any section of the country but must be for the nation, if the policy is to endure.

In the south reclamation means the development of cutover lands and the drainage of swamp and overflow lands.

The abandonment of the farm is regarded as a menace. Soils are being depleted, and the country is being deserted. There are fewer farms in Mississippi today than five years

ago. The tendency is to leave the country and go to the city. One of the great problems confronting the nation is to make the countryside more inviting and attractive, was the sentiment voiced by southern congressmen and delegates from the south in attendance on the reclamation conference at the Department of the Interior, just ended. The eyes of the nation, said these spokesmen, are turning southward and the south is facing the dawn of a new day.

The Mississippi spokesmen were particularly interested in the investigations that have been made in the southern and delta sections of that state, which has approximately 30,000,000 acres of land with about 8,000,000 acres in crops, 3,000,000 acres in swamps, 2,750,000 acres in overflow lands, 13,000,000 acres in cutover lands, 5,500,000 acres of merchantable timber.

No definite scheme for the colonization of farm workers in the south was formulated at the conference, but this feature of the general plan of reclamation will be developed later. It was pointed out that the United States does not make a donation or a contribution in reclamation. The government lends the money for the construction of the project, and the costs, without interest, are to be repaid by the settlers. It has been estimated that the item of interest consumes from 10 to 60 per cent of the costs of drainage and other improvement projects in the south.

Tennessee was represented at the conference by Senator Tyson and Representatives Garrett, Byrns and Hull, and in addition to a delegation from the southern part of the state, Mississippi was represented by both senators and the entire delegation in the House.

## Old Plantation On Verge of N. Y. WORLD JUL 17 1927

Flood Likely to Wipe Away One of Picturesque Institutions of the South

By Lester A. Walton

COINCIDENT with reports from the flood district that the Mississippi River and its tributaries are rap-

idly receding comes the announcement that the historic and picturesque Southern plantation is on the verge of disintegration.

It is said the plantation, with its wealth of romance and tradition, is its last legs." It is to be partitioned into small farms and sold to the share-cropper, tenant-farmer and field hand.

During the Mississippi flood disaster when surging waters blanketed feet high many thousands of acres, the plantation is thought to have made its last stand against the encroachment of time.

## Offered to Negroes On Reasonable Terms

In the State of Mississippi, where the blacks outnumber the whites, plantations are being cut up into small farms and offered for sale to Negro refugees on reasonable terms. This unprecedented step has been taken to keep thrifty blacks, discouraged by unfavorable conditions incident to the flood from going to Northern industrial centres.

It was Negro migration that first depopulated plantation after plantation in the South, the planter sustaining an irreparable loss. To-day countless acres are in weeds where once grew cotton and corn. Unnumbered cabins, formerly the home of the farm hand, are bare and untenanted.

What was generally regarded as a dire and discouraging situation has been made immeasurably worse by the Mississippi River disaster. With prospects of the Negro refugee migrating North in large numbers the planter, having miles of land idle and little likelihood of a return to the old order of things, has adopted a plan new and novel to the Southland in order successfully to cope with present-day exigencies.

While profoundly regretting the widespread damage wrought there are white and colored people in the South who profess to see a silvery lining to the cloud. They predict the advent of prosperity when untilled acreage passes into the ownership of the ambitious, industrious farmhand, and the inevitable passing of the share-cropper and tenant-farmer systems. There are refugees who will be unable to acquire farms in the immediate future, being under contract this season either as share-cropper, or a tenant-farmer.

The Red Cross established refugee camps in seven States visited by the flood—Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana. Of the 680,000 refugees 525,000 were in three States—Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana. Of the 525,000 85 per cent. were Negroes. Some weeks ago when charges were made that Negroes in some camps were being discriminated against and mistreated, Secretary Herbert Hoover appointed a Colored Advisory Commission to the Red Cross. After an investigation was conducted and all camps visited, the commission reported its findings.

## Recommendations Made By Hoover's Board

Among the recommendations made to Mr. Hoover and favorably acted upon were:

The entire reconstruction of the Negro camp at Opelousas, La., and

placing it on a sanitary and acceptable basis.

The disbandment of the camp at Monroe, La.

Demobilization as rapidly as possible of the National Guard except in instances where police authority is necessary to protect refugees from petty thieves and the criminal element.

Installing available cots at a big expense in Negro camps.

In centres where the race had not been represented on local or State Reconstruction Committees instructions were given to appoint a Negro Advisory Committee.

The appointment of Negro farm demonstration agents and women workers in home economics by the United States Department of Agriculture to assist in solving problems faced by refugees on the return to their homes.

The United States Public Health Service and the Rockefeller Foundation are co-operating with the Red Cross in establishing county health units to keep down contagious diseases and to give medical aid until the crisis has passed.

A colored Advisory Rehabilitation Commission has been named to cover the entire flooded area as reconstruction progresses, to inspect relief work and offer suggestions to the Red Cross. At a conference held a few days ago in the Red Cross Building, Washington, Secretary Hoover outlined to the commission rehabilitation plans.

With the return to their homes of many flood sufferers, the mass feeding which has been conducted in camps will be soon discontinued. A house to house canvass will be carried on to ascertain who is in need. Food and seed will be provided, also farming implements to replace those lost. In cases where houses have been rendered inhabitable, a stock cabin will be furnished. They will be identical in every respect and delivered in a packet to white and black alike. The land owner will be required to erect them. Saw mills are cutting out cabins in large numbers.

The small land owner will be given three weeks food as a starter, also cabin and furniture if former home was destroyed by the flood. He can borrow money on his land from the agricultural finance corporations at a low rate of interest, securing sufficient financial assistance to enable him to carry over to crop time.

The tenant farmer who furnishes his own seed, food, feed for animals and works on a three-fourths basis, paying the land owner one-fourth, will be rehabilitated in full.

The share-cropper whom the plantation owner furnishes everything and takes 50 per cent. of the crop, will not be aided by the Red Cross unless the owner proves he is unable to give aid. Only in instances when, after investigation, the land owner is found to be financially impoverished, will the agricultural finance corporations advance him money for the tenant.

Every precaution is to be taken to keep the plantation owner from actively participating in relief work.

The members of the Colored Advisory Rehabilitation Commission are Dr. R. R. Moton, Principal of Tuskegee Institute, Chairman; Bishop R. E. Jones of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Vice Chairman; A. L. Holsey, Secretary; Prof. J. S. Clark, President

of Southern University, R. R. Taylor, Claude A. Barnett and Thomas Campbell of the United States Department of Agriculture



Agriculture - 1927  
Condition of

General.

# The Spirit of the Negroes in the Overflowed Region.

Down in Mississippi is a great plantation, or combination of plantations, of 60,000 acres under one ownership. For the thousands of negro tenants and workers the Rev. Ad Wimbs, a negro minister, publishes a paper called the Cotton Farmer, in which he always has much of interest to say about the negro cotton growers and their work. Driven out by the flood, the editor of that paper issues a little two-page sheet, so full of appreciation and praise and good spirit that we reprint the whole paper mainly for the benefit of our Northern and Western readers. Here it is:

## THE COTTON FARMER.

Camp Roberts, Rev. Ad Wimbs, Editor.

### A Word From the Editor.

This special edition of "The Cotton Farmer," not from our appointed office at Scott, on the Delta and Pine Land Company of Mississippi, but from the tent occupied by Deacon Webb Gibson, the colored foreman on McConnell Plantation.

We are using "Gipp's" typewriter and doing the best we can, as we always do, for we believe, if we ever solve the problem, and we believe the good, worthy negroes and the good white people will. We believe in the Delta and the alluvial land of the Delta.

### Our Horrible Experience.

There is no need of us undertaking to mention our horrible experience in fleeing from the apparently angry waters of the Great Mississippi River, but as far as we can let it be only a remembrance, and we thank God for our rescue, for our food, our shelter and medical attention that we are now so fortunate to receive from the hands of our white friends.

### The Rescue Work.

Words fail to enable us, in behalf of our people, to express ourselves adequately as to the heroic work performed by the white people of the Delta and Pine Land Company, in rescuing our people on the 18 cotton plantations, generally known as the Scott's Syndicate.

Professor Fox, in general command of the rescue workers, worked both night and day to see that every human being was saved from a watery grave.

The white people, with but few exceptions, did not flee to safety and leave us to perish. It required quick and intelligent work. The owners of the motorboats, from Clarksdale and other points, braved the raging waters that were carrying a current almost equal to that of Niagara Falls, to reach negro homes on the plantations and rescue them.

The wiseacre negroes of the North might as well stand and take notice, that the good white people with their undying allegiance are our friends. Then, too, they have something more than talk. Had it not been for the white people, many thousands of our race on the Scott Syndicate would have perished.

They not only rescued their own "niggers," but they rescued their "niggers neighbors," some on their own homes and some on the plantations of other white landlords.

The halt, the cripple and the blind were rescued and so far as we know, only three are unaccounted for; it is possible that they perished.

### Concentration Point.

They were all concentrated at strategic points, and they were conveyed by rail and steamboat to Rosedale, then from Rosedale to the Syndicate Cotton Plantations at Deeson, and a tented city sprung up as if by magic.

We cannot mention the names of all the white people who did such heroic work, but we cannot refrain from specially mentioning the "open doors" of Mr. Sharp and his tenants who provided temporarily for our people. We thank him!

### The Tented City.

The management of the Company, under the guiding hand of our President, Mr. L. K. Saulsbury, and his assistant, Mr. Oscar Johnston, rushed tents, cots, blankets, medicines and an abundance of food at the expense of the company to the camps.

They treaded the wine press alone, until that great organization, the American Red Cross, dispatched Major Bancroft to take charge of the situation and lift the burden from the shoulders of the Scott Syndicate. We thank God for this.

Rev. Tillmon, a worthy tenant in his sermon to our people, told us the Lord will provide, and the Lord has provided us with Major Bancroft to care for us. Let us trust him. All is well.

Our friends need not worry; we have people with us from the four corners of the earth, and this is intended as a message to them, as well as to us, that we are in the hands of that great mother, "The American Red Cross."

### Beggars Not Choosers.

We need not have any fear of being mistreated; every man, woman and child should behave themselves and obey orders that will come from time to time from Major Bancroft. We need not fear the Red Cross guards. This is a regulation of Uncle Sam and the National Red Cross, and it is the only condition on which you can put your feet under the table.

### Going Back Home.

As soon as conditions will permit, all will be carried back home by the company and equipped to make a living.

### All Debts Wiped Out.

No one will owe any debt to the company when we return home. The only thing we will owe is the debt of gratitude to Major Bancroft, the Red Cross and the Syndicate.

### Our Losses.

The Red Cross, through Major Bancroft and Senator Roberts of Rosedale, will undertake to help each person to get fixed up in his home. They are going to replace furniture, bedding, clothes, mules, horses, cows, hogs and chickens.

You will get such things as you possessed before the flood. Let us thank God for all this. However, don't fold your arms and sit down and wait when we go home, but let us go to work and make a crop; it can and will be made yet. The Lord will provide.

### Special Helpers.

While it is not our purpose to leave out anyone who helped us in our hours of distress, we cannot refrain from mentioning some of the gentlemen who were here by daylight, Friday morning, to assist the general manager, Mr. Sharp, to provide shelter for the homeless. Mr. Ballard, Scout Executive of the Delta Council of Boy Scouts of America, and Mr. Charles Wells, Scout Master of the Clarksdale Scouts, and Major Ed Fontaine, a World War veteran, were all here and performed herculean tasks in erecting tents for our people and in lending a helping hand in every way. May God bless them.

### Babies Born.

On Friday night of the flood a baby boy was born to Vina Hughes at the camp.

On Monday following a girl baby was born to Maggie and James Anderson.

On the same day a girl baby was born to Lillie and Ivory Winchester.

Fortunate for those women, Lydia Wimbs, a R. M., was among the number of refugees, and she attended them in their confinement.

Old Lady Dudley, a veteran of the Scott Syndicate and a member of Silver Mount Church, died at the Plantation Hospital at the camp. She was buried at Deeson Graveyard, with Rev. Green officiating.

### Preaching Services.

At the upper camp Rev. Green conducted services every night; he was assisted by Rev. Tillmon, Rev. Maiten and Rev. Bonds.

At the lower camp services were conducted by Rev. Cato Smith and others. Some great sermons were preached.

The boys amused themselves by playing ball in the pasture.

Our people were all cheerful. This spirit of cheerfulness, on our part, is one of the strong qualities that our race is possessed of.

Miss Mary Robinson, principal of Silver Mount School, conducted a Flood School for something over an hour each day for the benefit of the children.

### The Red Cross Publicity.

In the Red Cross drives, the Cotton Farmer's Column has at all times been opened to the publicity director of the Red Cross. The work of the Red Cross here for our people shows that the work deserves even more than a plantation was able to give, but we contributed our mite.

CHARLESTON

SOUTH CAROLINA

JUN 22 1927

### The Southern Negro's Freedom

Walter White, who is assistant secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, has been traveling in the flooded region of the lower Mississippi valley and has contributed an article on "The Negro and the Flood," to The Nation, in which he says, not without a seeming tone of disappointment, that, "there was a greater measure of fairness in the administration of flood relief so far as negroes were concerned than reports had given grounds for expecting. Inevitably, there were numerous minimum causes for complaint by colored refugees, but on the whole negroes were being given food, clothing, shelter and medical attention little different from that given to whites. . . . The Red Cross, with commendable diligence, had seen to it that



negroes should have an essentially fair charity, what would have happened within a week to the stricken community one does not like to contemplate.

To informed Southern people, the intimation that negroes in times of disaster are not kindly treated in the South without the intervention of a detached agency, such as the Red Cross, is pathetically amusing. Any of us know here that, despite exceptional mistreatments, the colored people have had abundant kindness and generosity whenever they have been in trouble. They have it from the living generation of whites, as they have had it from immemorial times.

The secretary of the colored people's society discovers that the negroes in the inundated districts are denied freedom of movement. He hears "of negroes eluding the guards placed around their negro camps and escaping to shift for themselves, choosing to forego food, shelter, clothing and medical attention rather than go back to virtual slavery on the plantations from which the flood waters have driven them." Again he says, "particularly in the States of Mississippi and Arkansas, where these share-

croppers and tenant farmers are negroes, it is rare for negroes to obtain fair settlement from their landlords. They live in a state of virtual peonage, and the flood situation has been used to strengthen their chains. That, in the main is twaddle. Elsewhere he speaks of one area in which reside 173,000 persons, of whom 80 per cent are negroes. To accept a statement that the 20 per cent of whites, in a period of universal distress for that region, when everyone is distracted, hold in restraint 80 per cent of the population is an assertion that will prove too much for the credulity of even the most infatuated friends of the negroes in the North. If, as White says, "some 2,000,000 negroes have left the South," in the recent years of migration," it passes the absurd to assert that great bodies of them can be held against their will in the South anywhere.

Nor is it to be assumed that the negro population, more than the whites, behave angelically at a time when general destruction is present. The writer was an eye witness of a conflagration in a Southern city that rendered 10,000 people homeless. Abundant supplies to the hungry came promptly from all parts of the country, especially from New York City. The negroes went to work after they had been denied food until tickets received from authorities who took control in the emergency were presented by them to show that they were not vagrants. Had they been left in idleness to subsist or

Yet, there is something in what this man White says whether or not it is true of present conditions in the lower Mississippi valley. Southern white people would as well understand now as later that when negroes wish to leave the South it is their privilege to leave. That the 2,000,000 have scattered in the Northern States has done the South no hurt, and if another 2,000,000 shall, in the next five or ten years, leave the Southern districts, where they are congested, it will be more of a shifting of a burden than an economic loss.

No one wishes to expel the negro from the South or to deny him justice, but no white Southern employer is wise or righteous if he harden his heart in the manner of a Pharaoh when a negro covets a home in Detroit or Pittsburgh. To say this is needless in South Carolina. Here, negroes go and come as they will, and that is as it should be.

In the coastal region of this State a new day is dawning. Hydro-electric power is coming to be everywhere distributed. Factories and other small industries will multiply. The requirement is for labor of more skill and initiative than the negroes have. Our lands are suitable for the raising of livestock, and not, so far, has the negro proved himself a capable herdsman. Exceptional negroes are provident and successful farmers, but the average must have the constant supervision of a white man, and only in those years especially unfavorable to the boll weevils are negroes working without direction other than failures.

The South should relieve itself of every shadow of suspicion in its treatment of the negro as a toiler. The white North is beginning to take a share of "the white man's burden." Let it take more. Let every discontented colored man get out. They can get out. Transportation is cheap and quick in respects, the North is a better land for negroes, or for some of them, than the South is, and all of them who aspire to the blessings they are told are in that promised land had better seek them.

For the well disposed and well conducted Southern negroes, there are still millions of them, who would remain in the South, there remain a home in a friendly country and plenty of white friends

## FARMERS IN SOUTH GET \$252 PER YEAR

### Income Only Half That Of Other Classes, Gist Tells Na- tional Association

CHICAGO, Ill., Nov. 19.—Special to The Advertiser.—"The cotton farmer will remain an economic problem until he receives his just proportion of the income from his toil," was the keynote of an address delivered today before the American Association for Agronomists, in annual session in Chicago, by Frank W. Gist, statistician, representing the United States Department of Agriculture and the state department of agriculture and industries who in a comprehensive digest laid bare the penniless pocket-book of the farmer, who relies on cotton for his income.

Mr. Gist showed that the per capita income of the East of the Mississippi cotton states averaged only \$252 per person for farmers, while for those not farmers, \$526 was the annual income. In other words, the farm income is less than half the income of other classes.

These cotton farmers are living at a standard distinctly below those of other productive classes, as shown by a comparison of farm incomes in various states.

It was then shown as an example that the Southern cotton farmer must do two things. He must raise cotton at a lower price per pound, or he must receive a higher price. It was set forth that most farmers could by better business methods reduce the cost of production somewhat. Also that by cooperative buying and selling, better returns could be obtained.

#### Problem in Producing

The great problem east of the Mississippi River lies in producing more per farm hand, which means more horsepower per farm hand and more pounds of lint produced.

The questions of farm credits, reduction of man labor, the competition of the West with the Southeast in cotton production, cooperatively at a great saving, higher prices could be assured by pooling in cooperative organizations. Not only must more cotton per farm be produced through an increase of horsepower and a decrease of hand labor, but more and better lint per acre must follow, before the farmer can raise his acre profits materially.

Such important and controlling factors as farm credits, natural enemies of cotton, use of poisons, disease control, losses from insects, competition between the Southwest and the Southeast in cheap production and studies in cost production, made up by the remainder of an exhaustive study into the cotton farmers' problems. It was shown that the average cost of production in 1926 in nine states was 14.7 cents per pound. Since the Alabama farmer received on an average about 12 cents per pound last year for his cotton, it is easy to see why he did not get rich, through losing

about two cents per pound on each bale produced.

#### Cotton Still King

That cotton is still king was shown by fully 70 per cent of the farmers' income coming from cotton last year. From such points of view as maintenance of soil fertility, diversification, crop rotation, and economic control of farm pests, it was shown that much of the problem of cotton production was of an agronomic nature.

In addition to these there remain the great questions of farm labor, cost of production, distribution, and farm credits to be administered with regard to the welfare of the farmer.

The address was received enthusiastically by a large body of scientists from all over the United States, following which round table questions were asked the speaker.

### PITTSTON, PA.

OCT 18 1927

#### FARM PROBLEMS COMPLEX

America's farm problems are so numerous and complex that no one mind or group of minds is able to grasp them all, declares Hubert Work, Secretary of the Interior, in an interesting article on our farm problems in the current issue of the National Republic. Dr. Work displays a keen and logical grasp of the subject and he sets out a number of things which the government is doing for agriculture. Touching on the agricultural schools of the country and their activities he says:

"Since everything we use comes from the soil, our first interest should be planted there.

"Because the department of government with which I am connected has to do with the public lands, the national parks, Indian reservations, and irrigated agriculture, I am interested in agriculture. But perhaps the underlying reason may be that I grew up on a farm and have always owned land.

"The Association of Agricultural College Presidents, with the Secretary of Agriculture himself a member, complimented the Department of the Interior when it asked us to make through the Bureau of Education, a survey of the school courses in their colleges, and submit to the association the results of such study. President Coolidge approved our request for funds to prosecute this survey, Congress appropriated for the work. And United States Commissioner of Education Tigert has selected with much care

the best available experts to make the study.

"There are sixty-nine of these institutions, fifty-two for white and seventeen for Negro students. The federal government annually appropriates \$15,000,000 for the support of the various activities undertaken by these land-grant colleges. State aid is represented through the annual appropriation of \$55,000,000.

"This form of subsidy to agriculture and farm life has been a policy of the United States for sixty years—a government paternalism without protest. During this period no general appraisal of the results of these subsidies or of the work of these institutions has been made. The fact that both the federal and the state governments are interested in the direction and type of education afforded by them, and that they receive support through taxation, from both sources, gives to the subject a national scope."



Agriculture - 1927  
Condition of.

Mississippi.

## THE SOUTH CANNOT LIVE BY COTTON ALONE.

IN the course of an open letter of holiday greetings to relations and friends S. J. High, president of the Peoples Bank and Trust Company of Tupelo, Miss., offered this sound advice:

"Our experience and observation the past few years has shown us that those farmers who are raising their food and feed and have good dairy cows and chickens, supplying their own family and selling the surplus eggs and cream, have generally grown more prosperous and are less embarrassed by debt and—when the farmers prosper we all prosper."

From the press and the utterances of eminent authorities on conditions in the South, following the unprecedented cotton crop of this year, similar statements to those made by the president of the Peoples Bank and Trust Company have gone forth to awaken in the Southern farmer and business man a realization that the South cannot live by cotton alone.

For example, the Week, an industrial, financial and agricultural review, published weekly by the Utilities Information Committee, Atlanta, contains the following statement by the Georgia Association, also of that city:

"Actual facts, gathered on the scene of action itself, show that those Georgia farmers who followed the cow-hog-hen program of diversified farming this year—the program earnestly urged and promoted by the Georgia Association—are, without exception, enjoying a reasonable degree of prosperity, while their neighbors who relied on cotton are in distress.

"Conditions in communities that have not yet seen the light and on the farms of landowners who have not yet been impressed with the fallacy—the utter futility and inevitable failure—of the all-cotton or any other one-crop system of farming stand not only as absolute vindication of the livestock diversification system, but as proof that that system affords the only way out for the agriculture of Georgia."

The foregoing is the conclusion drawn from a comprehensive survey of economic conditions made by F. H. Abbott, secretary of the Georgia Association, and Channing Cope of the Utilities Information Committee of Georgia, assisted by prominent business men and constructive citizens in many Georgia communities. Facts and figures of individual farming operations where diversification had been put under actual practical tests were tabulated in this survey.

Let the agricultural slogan of the South be "Pigs, Poultry and Dairy Cows on Every Farm. Raise Food and Feed and More and Better Cotton on Less Acreage."

## URGES NEGRO CITIZENS TO STAY ON FARMLANDS

Dear Editor—

The National Rural Industrial Association, Inc., since its early organization has advised the negro to remain on the farm and those left to return. The negroes seem to grow more and more dissatisfied with the farm.

This unrest and exodus of the neman's brain, that felled the timbers, groes are by no means new. Some cleared the forests and made beautiful homes and farms out of the broke out and negroes left by the wilderness where wild animals used hundreds going to Kansas in search to rove.

of the "bag of gold at the end of the rainbow." Some years later the farms they bought. Many intelligent industrious negroes the past groes sold and gave away every few years sold their farms and left. thing they had to go to Africa, then the negro is an economic factor in native land. Hundreds of men and the South and it is essential that women with the little children laid be convinced of his mistakes and at the depots in the cold and wet that he will have the unstinted pro-waiting for the trains to come to detection of the white people. If this take them to New Orleans or Newis done, I am sure the negroes will York to take the ships that were gradually get back to these farms there waiting for them.

From emancipation until now the The National Rural Industrial Association, Inc., will appoint an Industrial - Interracial Committee

from members of both races to look after matters.

The lands sold to negroes or worked by them on these plantations should be colony-like, looked over and advised and protected by the white people.

J. M. WILLIAMSON,  
President.

## Mississippi Plantation Owner Writes of South's Problems

[Editor's Note—This article, taken from the Plain Talk, was written by a southern white man who is a plantation owner in central Mississippi. The question of racial relations and betterment has been discussed by people in all walks of life, but the reading public has never been given an opportunity to hear the argument from the side of a southern plantation owner. Because of its length it was necessary to run the article in two parts, of which this is the second.]

By HOWARD SNYDER

In Wisconsin it is the aim of the agricultural college that every farmer have all the training in scientific methods that it is possible to give him; but in Mississippi I am told that the man who tills the soil, the Negro, needs no education and the way to handle him is to "hold him down."

### ADVOCATES UNIVERSAL EDUCATION IN SOUTH

Surely this is all wrong. As Carlyle says, "Men's hearts ought not to be set against one another but with one another, and all against the evil thing." And what is the evil thing with us? Surely anyone with the most mediocre insight can see it. It is the gross ignorance and unscientific farming of the man who tills the soil, whence the wealth of the South comes. Obviously, the masses of the people, both black and white, must be brought to see that the wealth of any community of any state or nation is always the measure of industry and acumen in the masses of the people. Until the white man lends his hand in the uplift of the Negro there is little hope of a better South for many a day to come. That

When I pass and see the thousands of acres of fine and lying idle with hundreds of vacant houses, and when I visit these cities and see many of my people loafing and dying with diseases, I ask, is there no way to show my people of their mistakes and get them back to these lands?

We can hope for no permanent advancement of the negroes until we can convince them that their salvation remains in tilling the soil as they are natural farm laborers, and the closer they stick to the farm, the faster they will climb the hill of civilization as the farm is one of the strongest pillars of civilization.

The activities we have to teach and train the negroes, seem to teach them against the farm. The teachers, the preachers and really the white leaders fail to give the negroes the proper instructions along this line.

Many negroes tell me by reason of insecurity of their person and property the farm is not the best place for them. To them the slogan of "Back to the Farm" falls on deaf ears.

There is a misunderstanding and the negro is made to believe that the white man is his enemy. The South is the natural home of the negro and if he leaves he will lose his heritage. It was the brawny arm of the negro, directed by the white



# Mississippi Plantation Owner Writes of South's Problems

[Editor's Note—This article taken, from the Plain Talk, was written by a southern white man who is a plantation owner in central Mississippi. The question of racial relations and betterment has been discussed by people in all walks of life, but the reading public has never been given an opportunity to hear the argument from the side of a southern plantation owner. Because of its length it is necessary to run the article in two parts, of which this is the first.]

HOWARD SNYDER

"Having lived on a plantation in central Mississippi for a number of years and having employed plantation Negroes in every capacity in which they can work, and having talked the Negro question over with hundreds of average white landlords I have pondered over the common notions regarding plantation Negroes, as held by the average farmer or planter.

"The first false notion that one gets in saturating doses is that the Negro cannot be taught that he is mentally inferior, and in no way is to be thought of as a person capable of receiving an equal amount of training as a white person. Not once or twice, but hundreds of times have I been told that it was a waste of time to educate or try to educate a 'n---', and that an 'educated n---' was a menace to the community.

## WHITES CLING TO OLD PREJUDICES

"Likewise have I been told that the Negro was incapable of moral development, that he was naturally immoral and destitute of decency. I am not surprised at this misconception for a thing so widespread as this fallacy surely must have a cause in some degree also widespread. There are good men in the South—thousands of them—who have in the course of their lives become acquainted with hundreds of plantation Negroes; and all these Negroes, with almost no exception, have been notoriously unreliable, dishonest, shiftless, superstitious, and with but few exceptions the women have given birth to children out of wedlock, some of them simply living with a man until a crop was made and then drifting away to another. These white planters have seen the children of primitive parents put into poor little schools, for two or three months in the year; they have seen these children hammered into the molds of custom and come out of the molds all very much alike; and then in the uncritical fashion of the average man they have concluded that the Negro cannot be improved mentally or morally.

## SOUTH RESPONSIBLE FOR IGNORANCE

"In all the range of human thought, where is there error so colossal as well as strange? Would it not be as sensible to say that Burbank could not improve the wild cactus because in thousands of years, nature had not improved it, according to man's standards? Either these black people are basically different from other members of the human species, or even animals, else they can be improved by education.

"Cannot receive training, intellec-

tual or moral.' Why not? The answer I generally get is, 'They haven't.' Certainly, that is true. Neither have they receiving training worth a hoot. Tens of thousands of field Negroes in the South cannot write their own names, tell the time of day, and many can count but small sums of money. They transgress flagrantly the morals and laws of civilization. But are three months out of a year for two or three years in a lifetime—in a school taught by a preacher or teacher, 'who can barely read and sign his name,' in a school that has an attendance of sixty pupils in a space of 30 by 16 feet and that has no equipment other than hand-made benches—sufficient test to warrant the current opinions among the generality of white people in the South?

## KEEP-DOWN SYSTEM RUINED FARMS

"An established homogeneity, black and white, among other causes, leads the uncritical public in the South to see the Negro as a class and not as an individual. And herein lies one of the greatest and most widespread injustices of the South to the Negro. Let an individual in the South have but a sixteenth or thirty-second part of Negro blood in his veins and it matters not how straight his hair, how clear his skin, how clean his morals, how brilliant his intellect—he is nevertheless to the southern public just a 'n---', and on the same level with the half-civilized brute who beats his woman and boasts of twenty illegitimate children.

"In our courts of law we claim justice shall be given to every citizen as an individual; in our colleges and universities we pride ourselves on the fact that there is no badge of distinction save that of merit; and in our industrial life we ask, not what's your ancestry, but what can you do? Is it not then a little out of date for the southern to say, 'you n--- are all of a kind, all incapable of training; there's but one way to handle you and that's to keep you down.'

"Time out of number have I been told that the only way to handle the Negroes on my plantation is to 'keep them down,' meaning to keep them in gross ignorance and dole out supplies to them on the credit system. There are some very noticeable results of the keeping-down system. First, there are the thousands and thousands of unworked acres, because the Negro who once worked them has gone to the North to labor in some city. It seems that this idea about the spoliation of the Negro through education has a financial side. Further, there are millions of half-titled, unscientifically worked patches and farms that might yield tenfold more than they do if the Negro knew how to cultivate them. And he cultivates it when he happens to feel like doing so

rather than when the crop needs his attention. He will farm the same little hill in cotton year after year, quite regardless of the fact that it has not yielded half a crop for the past twenty years, and each successive year pray, 'Good Lawd, bless me wid a good crop tis' once mo'.

Continued from  
page 1

the Negro is capable of a higher degree of training for skilled trades is known to many; that he is also capable of the same higher education and culture that the white man enjoys is known to a few. Industrial training the Negro must have, if he is ever to tear the blind of ignorance and poverty from his eyes.

If the uncritical common man were the only one in error the problem would not be quite so difficult. But unfortunately it is not this way. Our scholars, sociologists and lawmakers are but little more critical in views. In the United States and particularly in the South, we have two peoples with very different strains of racial heredity: one from the north temperate zone, the other from the tropical forests of Africa. Long before they came in contact with one another on American soil, the Anglo-Saxon had evolved an heredity endowment which generations of effort had adjusted to the highest civilization of history. The other brought the heritage of savagery, uncontrolled emotions, gloomy superstitions, enthralling customs, vanity, day-to-day living, and all the other traits of primitive people.

## CONDEMNS CREDIT AS FARM BLIGHT

Another great error which we are making in regard to the Negro is the continuance of the credit system of the South. As regularly as the first of March comes, the majority of plantation Negroes throughout the South flock to the county seats and villages to get their supply of provisions which landlords, merchants and bankers issue on being secured by a lien on the future crop and the Negro's live stock. If the season promises badly the amount is cut down to the merest necessities.

In the fall of the year when the settlements are made, the average field Negro will spend his yearly returns from his crop for anything to which he takes a fancy, quite regardless of his needs and circumstances. And I have seen them scatter their money for second-hand Fords, excursions to New Orleans and picnics. In many instances the Negro will waste \$600 or \$800. In the Delta he may waste \$1,000 or \$2,000. And when it is all gone he will look for a landlord who will issue supplies and take a chance on getting the purchase price out of the next year's crop. I know of no other way of putting a greater premium on the shiftlessness of plantation Negroes than by the credit system.

Of course, there are dishonest men everywhere, and it is the credit system that gives dishonest men a

chance to pad the accounts of the ignorant Negro until it takes all of his crop to settle it. When this happens there is sure to be a cause of racial antagonism; then, more than likely, the South has one less Negro family to till the fields the following year. When things get too disagreeable, the Negro usually goes North.

I have always thought that the credit system discouraged the ownership of land by Negroes, and this is in itself a source of poor, indifferent farming. As long as the field Negro feels sure of getting something, be it only enough to keep the wolf away, he is not likely to be so anxious to own a farm of his own as he would otherwise be. And as long as he tills land that belongs to another he is sure not to take an active interest in it.

## LYNCHINGS DRIVE SOIL TILLERS NORTH

There is that ugliest of all wrongs to consider—mob violence. I have noticed in Mississippi, Texas, Louisiana, Alabama and elsewhere in the South, that after a mob of any nature has sought to intimidate the Negroes with atrocities there has been speedily an exodus of Negroes from that community to the North. This is, of course, the very thing the South does not want, for here are her untold thousands of acres of untitled fields, her vast forests, to be sawed into lumber, roads to build and factories to run.

Surely it is high time the Southerner awoke to the fact that not through antagonism, but through co-operation will he secure the desired results financially, socially, and morally. That the white planter has in the past depended on Negro labor is known to everybody; that in the future his dependence will continue to depend on it is THE problem. Then why not maintain such schools and enforce such discipline and training as will be conducive to the development in the Negro, as will lead him to want to develop his own country for his own and others' good? As long as his wants are those of a primitive man only, no mechanical pressure will force from him but a modicum of labor. Through the spirit of co-operation can wealth be produced in the South; and with wealth the whites and blacks alike may receive training such as is offered the young men and women of the North. Even if the Southerner considers no other interest than his own self-seeking in producing wealth, it is still to his advantage that he bring about that environment most conducive to the development in the Negro of the virtues of dependability, honesty, frugality, and thrift. Today the average field Negro has but slight conception of what these virtues mean. Hence his notorious shiftlessness.

It is to the advantage of every farmer and planter to produce to the limit of the capacity of his land to produce. Can this be done by robbing the soil and degrading the laborer?



Agriculture - 1927

## Condition of CHARLOTTE, N. C.

*Beurer*

JAN 30 1927

### THE NEGRO FARMER.

Southern farmers have made note in recent years of the progress being scored by the negroes on the farm. This progress is indicated largely in the circumstance that instead of being content with occupation as croppers, they are turning to land ownership. It is home-ownership in the towns that has revolutionized the condition of the negro in the town, and farm-owning is doing the same for him in the country. Mere knowledge of possession of farm or home makes a better citizen of the negro. The system of agricultural extension work among the negroes is largely responsible for their recent advancement on the farm. The Agricultural Department at Washington is advertent to this fact in the course of a report it has just made covering the different phases of that work for the past 10 years. The encouraging word is sent out that Southern negro farmers "are learning better methods of farming and home making." They are becoming land-owners as a result of their renewed interest. The report maintains that home-ownership is the largest factor in the solution of the so-called negro problem. Co-operative agriculture extension work has exerted a great influence in this direction. The gradual increase in the number of negro agents and also in appropriations for their support during the last 10 years gives much promise for the development of this work.

"It is a fine tribute to the good work of the negro agents," says the report, "that when the period of retrenchment came immediately after the World War, their forces and appropriations were the only ones which were not reduced."

Salisbury, N. C. Post

FEB 2 1927

## Negro Farmers Talk Diversified Farming in Rowan

Rowan negro farmers to the number of about 300 held a conference at Landis Tuesday, with Colored Demonstrator J. D. Carlton in charge. The meeting was for the purpose of discussing diversified farming and much interest was manifested.

Talks were made by W. G. Yeager, white farm demonstration agent for Rowan; Dr. George Howard, superintendent of county

schools, and Mr. Bean, who has charge of the county school building program. All of these urged diversified farming, the raising of various crops, instead of cultivation on a large scale of any one particular crop. Agent Carlton also made a talk and the discussion was quite general on the part of those present.

The negro farmers present were much confused and most of them pledged themselves to diversified farming, believing this to be the best solution of at least one of the big farm problems.

At the close of the conference a splendid hostess dinner, prepared by colored farm women was served to the negro farmers present. It was decided to hold a like conference at Rockwell, Friday April 1.

### TRIBUNE

*Conceded - N. C.*

OCT 27 1927

### NEGRO FARM TENANCY.

In 1910 there were 43,676 negro tenant farmers in North Carolina, this being 67.7 per cent. of all negro farmers in the State. In 1925 the total of negro tenant farmers had grown to 58,865 and the percentage increased to 72.7.

In a recent survey in the University News Letter Paul W. Wager discusses this important question, giving figures for the fourteen southern States which have a relatively large number of negro farmers. These States are Virginia, Maryland, Florida, Kentucky, Oklahoma, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, South Carolina, Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Georgia and Mississippi.

The States are ranked on the basis of negro tenancy and Virginia leads with only 33.8 per cent. of the negro farm tenants. In Mississippi 87.1 per cent. are tenants. Is the present tenancy ratio upward or downward? The figures show that in ten states the ratios were higher in 1925 than in 1910, and in four states the opposite was true.

The increase in negro tenancy in North Carolina was larger than for any other State except Texas. Florida witnessed a big reduction from 76 in 1910 to 42.8 in 1925. In the fourteen States as a whole the ratio increased from 76 in 1910 to 76.6 in 1925.

North Carolina

Numerically seven states showed an increase in negro tenancy in the fifteen-year period and seven a decrease. Taking the entire group of states the number of negro farm tenants decreased from 667,913 in 1910 to 635,612 in 1925. In the same period the number of negro farm owners decreased in these states from 210,116 to 193,638. In other words, there was an exodus of negro farmers from the South rather than any appreciable passing from tenancy into ownership.

A study of the figures reveals that the number of negro tenant farmers increased slightly in Virginia, Maryland, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana, and increased phenomenally in Texas and in North Carolina. On the other hand, there were slight decreases in Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, South Carolina and Mississippi, and phenomenal decreases in Alabama and Georgia. It is evident that there has been a steady migration of negroes from the South Atlantic States northward, with a considerable number of them stopping in North Carolina. There appears also to have been a migration from the Gulf states westward into the newer cotton areas in Oklahoma and Texas.

Does the State derive any benefit from these landless hordes? Mr. Wager says:

"The causes of the shifting of negro population are easier to explain than the consequences. The boll weevil has been an expulsive force; the negro farmers have tried to advance ahead of it. Again the negroes generally find it to their economic advantage to migrate from areas with a high negro ratio to areas with lower negro ratios—in other words to spread out. Possibly the migration has been prompted in part by the prospect of better schools, better institutional facilities, better race relations.

"An increase of 15,189 negro tenant farmers in North Carolina in fifteen years can hardly be an unmitigated blessing. The addition of these landless hordes from regions further south introduces serious problems—both economic and social. The presence of new competitors hinders the economic advance of our native farm tenants, and makes a reduction in farm tenancy more difficult. The in-

flux of thousands of homeless negroes, unacquainted and unadjusted, makes for social disturbances. There is an increase in crime, race friction, and social maladjustments of every sort."

Oct 19, N. C., News

OCT 19 1927

### A NEGRO FARMER

J. F. Thompson came to Augusta some 35 years ago from Union Point and started work as a drayman on Cotton Row. Long years of service have incapacitated him for further work, but his son Charles carries on, and Harold, another son, is the farmer of the family, augmented by his mother, Ann Thompson, who started the family out in agriculture.

Harold began his work as a mere youth and rented land a short time until he bargained to buy a farm, the Taylor Hill place down the river, consisting of some 900 acres of land, and when this was settled for he bought, with the assistance of other members of the family, the Lombard and Holmes tracts, comprising another 400 acres, and has under lease at present 150 acres more of land, or a total of about 1500 acres.

Last year upward of 10,000 bushels of corn was grown, more than 15,000 bales of hay, more than 30 bales of cotton, and oats galore. He has sold thousands of bushels of oats, Fulghum seed oats, one Augustan buying 2000 bushels and M. M. Daniels of Millen buying 2000 bushels. On the farm today are more than 300 acres of the finest oats imaginable, oats that make 50 or 75 bushels per acre.

The farm is equipped with tractors, power presses and other modern supplies that make farming in the Savannah River Valley a success. The story is one remarkable in that it shows what can be done in farming around Augusta, and there is no question but that some day every acre of fertile valley land of this section will be utilized for agricultural purposes, and it is certain that two blades of grass, or even five or six, will be made to grow where only one has grown heretofore.

The lesson of these colored farmers is one that ought to be inspirational throughout this entire section, and a visit to the place, six or seven miles



down the Savannah River road, will show the public what is being done there and what can be done elsewhere around Augusta.

With the construction of immens dams above Augusta for water-power purposes, the flood control of the Savannah River would be well-nigh perfect. With this done, a vast acreage could be opened up with a reasonable degree of safety from any overflow and farming on an extensive scale could be carried on from every viewpoint around Augusta. It is worth considering and means great things for those who go into the proposition and pursue the work on an intelligent basis.

Anybody who has some 8000 bushels of fine corn and 10,000 bales of choice native hay to sell at this season has little to worry about in making a success of agricultural operations. The Thompson family, colored, is doing much to demonstrate the possibilities in farming, and it is a great pity that thousands of both white and black farmers of this section do not emulate their example and grow the things needed at home.

In addition to these staple crops, the Thompsons grow quite a quantity of hogs, some chickens, some truck and other products that contribute to swelling the coffers of the family.—Manu-  
facturers Record.

## NEGRO FARM TENANCY

The table which appears in this issue gives the number of negro tenant farmers in each of fourteen Southern states in 1910 and in 1925. It also indicates in each case the ratio of tenants to the total number of negro farmers. The table was limited to those states in which there is a relatively large number of negro farmers. The states are ranked on the basis of negro tenancy ratios. In Virginia only 33.8 percent of the negro farmers are tenants; in Mississippi 87.1 percent are tenants. The other Southern states lie between these two extremes.

More significant, perhaps, than the present tenancy ratio is the trend. Is it upwards or downwards? Our computations reveal that in ten states the ratios were higher in 1925 than in 1910, and in four states the opposite was true. Incidentally, North Carolina's negro tenancy ratio increased from 67.7 to 72.7, not a very encouraging commentary. Only in Texas was the increase greater. Florida witnessed the greatest reduction, its tenancy

ratio falling from 49.7 to 42.8. Taking the entire fourteen states the negro tenancy ratio increased from 76.0 in 1910 to 76.6 in 1925. While any increase in tenancy is to be deplored it is worthy of notice that the increase among negroes was less than among whites in the same area.

## A Numerical Decrease

Numerically seven states showed an increase in negro tenancy in the fifteen-year period and seven a decrease. Taking the entire group of states the number of negro farm tenants decreased from 667,913 in 1910 to 635,612 in 1925. In the same period the number of negro farm owners decreased in these states from 210,116 to 193,638. In other words, there was an exodus of negro farmers from the South rather than any appreciable passing from tenancy into ownership.

A study of the table reveals that the number of negro tenant farmers increased slightly in Virginia, Maryland, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana, and increased phenomenally in Texas and North Carolina. On the other hand, there were slight decreases in Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, South Carolina and Mississippi, and phenomenal decreases in Alabama and Georgia. It is evident that there has been a steady migration of negroes from the South Atlantic states northward, with a considerable number of them stopping in North Carolina. There appears also to have been a migration from the Gulf states westward into the newer cotton areas in Oklahoma and Texas.

## Causes and Effects

The causes of the shifting of negro population are easier to explain than the consequences. The boll weevil has been an expulsive force; the negro farmers have tried to advance ahead of it. Again the negroes generally find it to their economic advantage to migrate from areas with a high negro ratio to areas with lower negro ratios—in other words to spread out. Possibly the migration has been prompted in part by the prospect of better schools, better institutional facilities, better race relations.

An increase of 15,189 negro tenant farmers in North Carolina in fifteen years can hardly be an unmitigated blessing. The addition of these landless hordes from regions further south introduces serious problems—both economic and social. The presence of new competitors hinders the economic advance of our native farm tenants

and makes a reduction in farm tenancy more difficult. The influx of thousands of homeless negroes, unacquainted and unadjusted, makes for social disturbances. There is an increase in crime, race friction, and social maladjustments of every sort.—Paul W. Wager.

## A RURAL PROBLEM

Education of negroes in the United States is mainly a rural problem. A recent study by the U. S. Bureau of Education indicates that 93.4 percent of the negro schools in fourteen southern states are in rural communities. In other words, there are 22,494 rural schools and 1,535 urban schools. The average length of the school term in the rural schools was in 1925-26 about six months. The range was from 8.7 months in Maryland to 4.7 months in Alabama. Of the 801 negro high schools in the fourteen states, 200 are four-year accredited high schools. The total enrollment in the high schools in 1925-26 was 68,606 and the number of four-year graduates was 6,435.

## IN VARIED OCCUPATIONS

An increasing number of colored business women find employment as insurance agents and real estate agents and nearly 200 have qualified as undertakers. Fully 2,500 are clerks and saleswomen in stores, and others are making a livelihood and gaining business experience as commercial travelers, decorators, drapers, and window dressers, as demonstrators and floorwalkers in stores, and as employment office keepers. We have several opticians and nearly 400 female hucksters and peddlers, a number of junk dealers, and a dozen or more dealers in rags. All of which indicates a decided improvement in the economic status of our race.—Columbian Press Bureau, quoted in The Southern Workman.

## NEGRO TENANT FARMERS IN THE SOUTH

### Number and Ratio, 1910 and 1925

The following table shows the number of negro tenant farmers in each of the Southern states in 1910 and in 1925. It also indicates in each case what percent of the total number of negro farmers the tenants represent. The table is based on United States Census statistics.

It will be noticed that the absolute number of negro tenant farmers increased in seven states and decreased in seven states. The tenancy ratios increased in ten states and decreased in four. Mississippi has the largest number of negro tenants, as well as the highest tenancy ratio; nevertheless the number has decreased by nearly twenty thousand since 1915. North Carolina the number has decreased by nearly twenty thousand since 1915. North Carolina witnessed the greatest increase numerically, and Texas the greatest relative increase. There appears to be a gradual movement of negro farmers northward and westward.

Paul W. Wager

Department of Rural Social-Economics, University of North Carolina

Rank	State	1910		1925	
		Negro tenant farmers	Percent of all negro farmers	Negro tenant farmers	Percent of all negro farmers
1	Virginia.....	15,691.....	32.6.....	16,928.....	33.8
2	Maryland.....	2,334.....	36.6.....	2,510.....	37.3
3	Florida.....	7,311.....	49.7.....	5,148.....	42.8
4	Kentucky.....	5,753.....	49.1.....	5,747.....	53.6
5	Oklahoma.....	8,370.....	63.4.....	11,348.....	56.6
6	North Carolina.....	43,676.....	67.7.....	58,865.....	72.7
7	Tennessee.....	27,551.....	72.0.....	25,412.....	73.3
8	Texas.....	48,554.....	69.6.....	61,840.....	75.7
9	South Carolina.....	76,285.....	79.0.....	72,179.....	79.7
10	Alabama.....	93,288.....	84.5.....	70,539.....	82.7
11	Arkansas.....	48,872.....	76.9.....	52,181.....	73.8
12	Louisiana.....	44,062.....	80.4.....	49,913.....	83.9
13	Georgia.....	106,733.....	87.1.....	72,206.....	85.9
14	Mississippi.....	139,433.....	84.8.....	130,796.....	87.1



Agriculture-1927

Oklahoma

Condition of  
**POTATO KING REALLY  
KNOWS HIS POTATOES**

MUSKOGEE, Okla.—George Doakes, Oklahoma potato king, bids fair to break his potato record of 1926 this year. The Muskogee county farmer who sold 17 car loads of potatoes last year for \$18,000 is already several car loads ahead of his record this year.

*for Los Angeles*



Agriculture - 1927

Condition of.

# LEVER SEALS DOOM OF SMALL FARMER

## South Carolina Congress- man Sees Little Opera- tor Only as Industrial Adjunct.

"The sun of the small southern farmer has set. His day has come and gone and will never return again." This is the opinion of Mr. Lever, congressman from South Carolina, who is now president of the Federal Land bank of Columbia, S. C., as expressed to The Constitution last night at the Ansley hotel. Mr. Lever is in Atlanta for the purpose of addressing a joint session of the legislature here today, at noon, and the state-wide dinner of the Georgia association at the Atlanta Athletic club Friday night.

"The small farmer," continued Mr. Lever, "is now an industrial worker. He still lives on the farm, but uses it solely as a place of residence. His source of income, providing him with food and clothes and his children with their education, is derived from the industrial centers which have sprung up over the state."

This, according to Mr. Lever, is as it should be. The small "one-horse" farmer, producing a surplus crop which serves as a mill-stone about the necks of the intelligent, efficient agriculturists, should be diverted into more productive fields of endeavor, leaving the burden of cotton production upon the shoulders of those farmers who are well equipped to assume it. Mr. Lever stated that the only way in which the south can compete with the vast cotton-growing areas of Texas, Oklahoma and other southern and western states is to use the most intensive methods available—as to intelligence as well as to actual farm operation. The intensive program, Mr. Lever said, is beyond the realm of possibility, so far as the small southern farmer, as now constituted, is concerned.

"The south should awaken," said Mr. Lever, "to the millions of dollars in water power now running untrammelled to the sea. We should harness this untold wealth, build cotton mills, lumber mills, veneer plants and all the other phases of a real industrial background, and give the inefficient, wasteful farmer, now merely existing, an opportunity to wear decent clothes, eat wholesome food and give his children an education. The future development of cotton depends upon the proportionate development of water power and navigation in the south."

### Stumbling Block.

"The greatest stumbling block that prevents an immediate application of a high-grade agricultural system," he continued, "is the attitude of the average southern country banker. Through their reluctance to recognize anything but a bale of cotton as a basis of credit, it is consequently extremely difficult to establish a system in which cotton is not the outstanding factor. For years, cotton in the south was regarded as 'king,' but that day, too, is a thing of the past. Cotton is, and always will be, one of the south's most important crops, but it should be kept in its place. It should be utilized as a cash crop, purely, a surplus remaining to the farmer's credit after he has fed his family and his livestock with the products grown on his farm."

Mr. Lever is of the opinion that the word "diversification," which has come almost a by-word whenever a high-grade system of agriculture is thought, should be avoided, and that the phrase "sustaining agriculture" should be substituted. Georgia, South Carolina and, in fact, the entire eastern part of the south, said Mr. Lever, is ideally equipped for the raising of high-grade cattle—even better equipped than Wisconsin, long regarded as the leading dairying state in the union. "Poultry, hogs and cattle can be raised cheaper in the south than in the corn belt, ready markets are available, and I see no reason why the farmer in this section of the country should not enter into cattle-raising, as well as poultry and hog-raising with the same enthusiasm that has characterized their growing of cotton—and with far greater success from a monetary standpoint."

### Aims Indorsed.

Mr. Lever thoroughly indorsed the aims and purposes of the Georgia association, in that organization's efforts to aid in community and county organization, and to aid rural communities solving their marketing, credit, land settlement and advertising problems, and to aid educational and regulatory agencies provided by the state—the State College of Agriculture and the state department of agriculture—so as to make them as useful and efficient as possible, and especially to strengthen the work of the county agents, made possible through the enactment of the Smith-Lever act.

Mr. Lever is a native of South Carolina and was educated in that state, spending the first 18 years of his life on a farm. He was a member of the South Carolina house of representatives in 1901 and served the seventh South Carolina congressional district in congress for about 20 years, resigning in 1919. During his period in congress, Mr. Lever was the author of several outstanding measures, notable among which was the Smith-Lever act, under which the system of county demonstration agents was inaugurated as a cooperative arrangement between the agricultural department of the United States and the agricultural departments of the states.

### On Farm Loan Board.

For a time after he left congress he was a member of the national farm loan board, from which position he resigned in order to become the president of the First Carolinas Joint Stock Land bank, of Columbia, S. C., the position he now holds.

The meeting of the Georgia association which Mr. Lever will address Friday night on the occasion of a dinner at the Atlanta Athletic club, is expected to gather together one of the most representative Georgia audiences assembled in years. Dr. A. M. Soule, president of the state college of agriculture, at Athens, will introduce the distinguished speaker. Chairmen of all districts in the Georgia association's \$100,000 fund campaign will be guests at the dinner, which will be a state-wide conference, in part, to hear of the spread of the association movement for better farming methods, national advertising and farm settlement work.

### Solons to Attend.

The success of the land settlement plan in Tift county will be discussed by H. H. Tift, of Tifton; marketing and grading by Francis E. Kamper, national advertising by J. D. Newton, of Americus, and Fred G. Warde, of Brunswick; the campaign in general by Dr. Frank E. Jaynes, and the budget appropriations by Eugene R. Black.

District, local and state chairmen of the association's drive, which has aroused intense interest throughout the state, will attend together with the president of the senate and speaker of the house, members of the agricultural committees of both houses, distinguished visitors from many sections of the state and more than 40 prominent Atlantans. All of the guests will be men who have shown an interest in the widespread effort under way to improve agricultural conditions in Georgia.



Agriculture - 1927

Condition of  
CITIZEN

Ottawa - Can

AUG 5 1927

### BLACK AND WHITE CO-OPERATION

A hopeful sign of the times is the co-operation between the whites and the blacks in some parts of the Southern States. In Madison county, Tennessee, welfare agencies are considering the needs of the entire population when planning housing, sanitation, street improvement and lighting, recreation, child welfare, education, church, home, justice administration and rural improvement. There is co-operation in marketing and banking. Banks are helping colored farmer boys to improve the soil and grow crops. A model home for colored people has been exhibited.

Probably the movement will be slow. Racial prejudice is hard to overcome when emphasized by difference in language and religion. The difficulty is still greater when the difference is in so conspicuous a matter as color. Certain kinds of immigration are objected to because of the racial conditions of the immigrants. But the negro problem in the United States was due, not to voluntary but to enforced immigration—black people dragged from their homes in Africa to serve the needs of the whites. The whites paid the penalty in a bloody civil war, about which Lincoln said that it might continue

until all the wealth piled up by the bondman's 250 years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn by the lash shall be paid by another drawn by the sword.

That did not happen, but the punishment of one generation for the sins of another was severe, and the process is still going on, both whites and blacks suffering.

The difficulty is very formidable, even fair-minded white people recognizing the obstacles in the way of ideal relations between the races. But such difficulties, if faced courageously, are educational in their influence. It is not necessary to theorize about equality or inequality. There are differences in capacity, and what is more important, in character, between whites, but these are not found to be incompatible with equal rights. There are social distinctions founded upon birth, education and wealth, but even when these are carried to ridiculous lengths, they do not stand in the way of the exercise of

the rights of citizenship.

The key to the solution of the problem lies in the sense of justice and in the recognition of human brotherhood. It is our neighbor's problem, but we in Canada cannot afford to be indifferent to the social conditions existing in the household next door

Tennessee



Agri. News

Condition of  
**THE ROAD TO TENANTRY**

During the last year the Southern Pacific lines in Texas and Louisiana have been sending out through H. M. Madison, agricultural agent, Texas and New Orleans Railroad, Houston, a large number of "Live-at-Home" letters to the people in the territory served by that railroad. The October letter discusses the road to farm ownership versus the road to tenancy, and contains, in part, the following:

"The other day some men were talking about the rapid growth of tenantry. One remarked that 'the road to tenantry was paved with bought supplies.'

"The road to tenantry is paved with buying corn, buying bacon, buying lard, buying molasses, buying potatoes, buying pork, buying yams, buying oats, buying hay, buying horse, chicken, cow and hog feed. These buyings lead straight to involuntary sales of mortgaged crops; involuntary sales of cotton; involuntary sales of farm tools, and at last to involuntary sales of land. When the last involuntary sale has been made, the farmer loads his personal effects into the wagon; his wife and children climb in, and they drive down the lane to the gate that opens on—tenantry. That man was right. The road to tenantry is paved with bought supplies.

"Look at the other road—the road to ownership. It is paved with home-grown crops—table supplies, feeds, livestock. There are sales of surplus corn, oats, eggs, livestock, bacon, lards, fruit, vegetables and surplus sales of almost everything that can be grown on the farm. These surplus sales bring surplus savings. When enough of them have been made, the farmer buys a car; his wife and children get in with him and they drive down the highway till they come to a gate. It opens inwardly, and they drive up to—ownership.

"The road paved with bought supplies is traveled by the one-crop farmer; he is on the way to tenantry. The road paved with voluntary sales of home-

grown crops is traveled by the Live-At-Home farmer; he is on the road to ownership. Both of these roads start from a place called the Beginning a few years out, at a place called Youth, there is a fork. Absentee landlords, town-dwelling landowners and those who loan money on crop mortgages are likely to say the one-crop road is the best. But it leads to what they want, tenantry. Is that the road you want to travel? The other road is open, paved with voluntary sales of surplus crops and leads to ownership."

Manufacturers Record

**TIMES HERALD**  
**DALLAS, TEX.**

*Farm News*  
**DEC 30 1927**  
**"MORE COTTON ON FEWER ACRES" IS RIGHT.**

The four-year undertaking of The News to test the soundness of the doctrine of "More Cotton on Fewer Acres" draws to a close. It was inevitable that so ambitious a project should meet misunderstanding and incur criticism. But as the perspective of the enterprise appears the significance of it is made all the larger. It is worth while to consider just what benefits have come of it. They may be tabulated thus:

1. The rejuvenation of the "worn-out" lands of East Texas has been signally celebrated, with consequences which will affect the entire State. "More Cotton on Fewer Acres" produced prize winners in West Texas, North Texas and South Texas. It is of importance to the individual cotton farmer anywhere. But it is the economic salvation of the East Texas farmer. It takes what he thought to be his handicap, namely, his exhausted soil, and makes of it his chief asset toward successful farming and financial independence. The News did not discover "More Cotton on Fewer Acres," but it did uncover it.

2. The series of contests proves that the logical and ultimate laboratory for farm problems is the farm.

In four years practical farmerstory of real farming in the face learned more about cotton culturef what the negro farmer of Texas than they had learned in the fortyas to contend with. They mean something.

that their teachers were farmers and "More Cotton on Fewer Acres" not professors. Indeed, the pro-as cost The News something, of fessors are broad-minded enough to ourse. Directly, the return from admit that they have learned some-ic outlay of thousands of dollars thing, too. This is not in deroga-slight. But The News profits tion of the experts or the teachers ventually by whatever profits —for "book farming" was at the exas in a large and continuing bottom of the dirt farming which account. The News, therefore, is produced ten, twelve and fourteen ell content with its investment. and sixteen bales on five acres.

One hundred thousand acres of every character and weather environment participated in these tests, with crop records which will be of lasting value.

3. The contests prove that the farmer who is able to coax his acres to the maximum effort is also the sort of farmer who "lives at home." Intensive farming is home farming because the farmer of few acres is always in sight of his home. By reducing the investment in acres he has released more for improvements of them. The chief improvement of the small farm is not the barn, but the home. And the farm with a real home always provides for its larder.

4. The "trade" and the farmer have a common concern in quality production and not conflicting interests, as some have erroneously supposed. The chief instrumentalities for distribution of cotton in Texas have participated generously in prize money and in valuable advice. The contests have shown that staple cotton is the best-paying cotton on the farm of an intelligent and industrious farmer.

5. Another point of great potentiality for Texas is the demonstration that under suitable management and leadership the negro can make and does make a first-class farmer. Demonstration Agent George W. Crouch of Smith County is a colored man. But he has made a record of serving his people. It is a record that any white man in Texas might well be proud of. Under his direction and at his insistence twenty-one negro farmers of Smith County turned in crop records. And these reports show the care and study given to them. They are the

**COURIER**  
**DEC 27 1927**  
**NEGRO FARM AGENT**  
**ADVISES HIS RACE**

To the Colored People:

An appeal is hereby made to every pastor, school principal and any whose business is with the public to constantly keep before your congregations and classes the importance of preparing to live honorable and comfortable in this life as well as in the life beyond. You can fittingly do this by encouraging them to grow at home the necessities for the sustenance of life. It is an old story, 'tis true, but so many of our people don't understand it yet. When the majority of our people in the rural sections, and urban, too, for that matter, become better producers and consistent consumers, there will be better living for all concerned. Every pastor in the rural section should be a booster for a diversified farm program because it means better crops, less confusion, a more satisfied people and I venture to say more Christianly interested to you, dear sir, better salaries. Those who have mean-

can spare some, and on the contrary those who have not are dissatisfied and make poor adherents. Christ invariably fed his congregations when they were hungry and then preached to them. Why not pattern after the example of the greatest leader of all ages. The teachers in the public schools of the county are to be congratulated for their co-operation given to the extension service in this county. and we are taking this means of eliciting further your co-operation in putting over this live-at-home program for 1928.

There are farmers by the hundreds, however, who have not yet decided to adopt improved practices in their farm program, and there are still others who are asleep, apparently, and haven't awakened to the logical way of becoming independent. Farmers should diversify in order to provide for the home and then plan for the market. The farmer's home is his life as well as in the life of business. It is more than just a place to stay. And successful farmers should encourage their less fortunate neighbors. Spread a little sunshine in the life of your fellowman who does not see the way. how him how to set his plow as well as advise him when to plow and give him a reason why. Four thousand home-owning colored farmers in Houston county, to better living for all concerned, can't be reached by one agent often enough to personally direct the farm operations necessary for crop production. Club leaders and community builders are urgently requested to keep the interest awake in your respective localities. This can be done most



rectively by doing the thing  
ell they are asked to do and in-  
ariably they will follow suit.  
entlemen, the people need your  
elp, they will welcome it, and  
ne county, state and national  
overnments will look with favor  
pon your efforts. Every farm  
hould grow their own hogs for  
neat, cows for milk and butter,  
hickens for eggs and gardens  
for vegetables. A garden is es-  
sential and should not be con-  
sidered an idle hour job. One  
acre in a properly managed gar-  
den will be worth many acres in  
corn or cotton as grown by the  
average farmer. Insure yourself  
of a living and then make money

Respectfully submitted.

H. C. Langrum,  
Colored County Agent.